

## **NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB) PROGRAM: MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT (MS&E) BENEFITS**

### **Questions and Answers – Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) as recommenders of select MS&E benefits under the NIHB Program.**

Effective September 1, 2019, NIHB will accept written recommendations from Speech-Language Pathologists for the coverage of a select list of MS&E benefits. For these benefits, a prescription from a physician or nurse practitioner will no longer be required when a written recommendation from a Speech-Language Pathologist is provided.

#### **1. Which MS&E benefits can Speech-Language Pathologists recommend under the NIHB Program?**

These include:

- Voice restoration products: voice prosthesis and accessories and speaking valves
- Electrolarynx
- Voice amplifiers
- Laryngectomy products such as stoma buttons and laryngectomy tubes

The [NIHB MS&E Benefit Lists](#) available on the Government of Canada website describes the health professionals that NIHB recognizes as prescribers or recommenders for each benefit item.

For more information on the MS&E policy and coverage and eligibility criteria please consult the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#). All materials can be found by visiting [www.canada.ca/nihb](http://www.canada.ca/nihb) and following the links to the Medical Supplies and Equipment benefit page.

#### **2. Are all Speech-Language Pathologists eligible to recommend MS&E benefits under the NIHB Program?**

The NIHB Program accepts a recommendation from a Speech-Language Pathologist when the items recommended align with their scope of practice as defined by their provincial regulatory body. In regions where there is no provincial/territorial regulatory body, NIHB will accept recommendations from practitioners who are members in good standing with a provincial regulatory body or practitioners who are clinically certified Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) members.

### **3. What information does a Speech-Language Pathologist need to provide as part of a written recommendation for MS&E benefits?**

Speech-Language Pathologist may use the Benefit Recommendation of Medical Supplies and Equipment Form, which can be accessed at <https://provider.express-scripts.ca/medical-supplies-and-equipment/forms>. This form was developed for allied health professionals making recommendations for NIHB clients. Please note that this form is not an assessment form and a copy of the Speech-Language Pathologist assessment report is required to determine if the client meets the Program criteria for the benefit(s) requested.

The NIHB Program will also accept other formats providing they supply all required information:

- the client's full given name and surname, and date of birth
- the item being recommended, including applicable details such as make/model, quantity, frequency, and size
- recommendation date
- the therapist's printed name, professional designation and title, and hand-written signature
- the therapist's provincial licence number or their registration number with SAC (if applicable).
- the therapist's business coordinates (e.g. address, phone number and email address)
- additional information that is specific to the benefit recommended as per the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#).

**Note:** Speech-Language Pathologists should not use the prior approval forms to recommend MS&E items since these forms are reserved for enrolled providers.

### **4. Is a Speech-Language Pathologist assessment report sufficient as a recommendation for the NIHB Program?**

The Speech-Language Pathologist assessment report is sufficient as a recommendation as long as it contains the required information listed under question 3.

### **5. Who can I contact for more information?**

For additional information please contact the NIHB regional office. NIHB regional contact information can be found on the Government of Canada website on the page [Contact the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program](#).