



**Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care**

**Public Health**

300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

May 30, 2024

## **Re: Manitoba HIV Medications Program Update**

Dear Health Care Provider:

As previously announced in Budget 2024, Manitoba is expanding coverage for HIV medications. The Manitoba HIV Medications Program (MHMP) ensures that all Manitobans with active Manitoba Health coverage who meet established criteria and who do not already have full coverage through a federal drug coverage program or another provincial drug coverage program, will be able to access HIV medications free of charge. Clients enrolled in the Manitoba Pharmacare program **are** eligible for the MHMP.

This coverage expansion applies to both Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) for people living with HIV and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), which was already covered at no cost to clients, will now also be covered through the MHMP.

### **Important points about the program:**

- There is no requirement for an application to enroll clients.
- The MHMP will cover one dispensing fee per ART or PrEP medication per month. This does not apply to PEP.
  - If a client requires coverage of more frequent dispensing for their HIV medications, the pharmacy may submit a request to the department according to the pharmacist Claims Submission Procedure (CSP) – Dispensing Frequency ([https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/profdocs/csp\\_frequency.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/profdocs/csp_frequency.pdf)). The pharmacy may require documentation from the prescriber to include in the submission.
  - Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care (MHSLC) does not prevent or restrict any pharmacy from dispensing any product, including HIV medications, at a frequency more often than covered under the CSP – Dispensing Frequency.
- For those circumstances where an individual requires a medication that is not listed on the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary (MDBF), prescribers may submit an application to the department similar to what currently occurs for Pharmacare (*See Form:* [https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/profdocs/eds\\_reqform.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/profdocs/eds_reqform.pdf)). *Note:* Individuals who already have EDS coverage for these medications will be grand-fathered in.
- There is no longer a requirement to register as a HIV PrEP prescriber. Prescribers still need to:

- Be familiar with the provincial eligibility criteria for PrEP and the Manitoba HIV Program HIV Prevention Guidelines prior to prescribing PrEP.
  - [https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/prep\\_eligibility\\_criteria.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/prep_eligibility_criteria.pdf)
  - <https://mbhiv.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MB-HIV-Pgm-Prevention-Guidelines-FINAL.pdf>
- Ensure that clients meet the eligibility criteria for PrEP established in the MDBF (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif/docs/manitoba-drug-benefits-formulary.pdf>).
- Schedule ongoing follow-up for monitoring and counseling as outlined in the HIV Prevention Guidelines.

Additional information will be posted online at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/healthprofessionals.html>

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility.

Sincerely,



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