

Smoking Cessation Drug Coverage

1. Veterans Affairs (Public Services Health Care Plans-PSHCP)

- Smoking cessation aids are limited \$1000 in a lifetime
 - i. PSHCP covers 80% of prescription
- **In order for smoking cessation aids to be covered, the client MUST get a prescription from a physician (or nurse practitioner/clinical assistant) and the product MUST be dispensed by a pharmacist**
 - i. Even if a pharmacist has obtained authorization to prescribe a drug for smoking cessation, they cannot provide a prescription to the client, as it will not be eligible for coverage
- <http://www.pshcp.ca/coverage.aspx>

2. Non-Insured Health Benefits (N.I.H.B)

- Smoking Cessation aids are considered a “limited use benefit with quantity and frequency limits”
- For all products, the year starts on the date the first prescription is filled. Once this quantity has been reached, the client is eligible again for coverage for nicotine gum or lozenges when one year has elapsed from the day the initial prescription was filled.
- **Nicotine Gum, Inhaler and Lozenge**: Coverage is limited to ***945 pieces during a one-year period.***
- **Nicotine Patch**: Coverage will be provided for up to the allowable number of patches for one of the following products, during a one-year period. The number of patches covered in the one-year period is:
 - i. ***Habitrol: 168 Patches***
 - ii. ***Nicoderm: 140 patches***
 - iii. ***Nicotrol: 140 Patches***
 - iv. ***I did attempt to clarify with NIHB what would happen if the patient switched from one brand to another & it sounds like if they started on Nicoderm they could receive 140 patches and then switch to Habitrol for another 28 patches***
- **Varenicline**: Coverage will be limited to 165 tablets during a one-year period (equivalent to a 12 week treatment course).
- **Bupropion HCL**: Coverage is limited to 180 tablets during a one-year period (approximately equivalent to 12 week treatment course depending on dose required)
- <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/health-system-systeme-sante/nihb-drug-list-2016-liste-medicaments-ssna/index-eng.php>

3. Pharmacare

- Nicotine Replacement Therapy is NOT covered
- Champix is covered, but limited to 12 weeks (165 tablets/year)
- Bupropion is covered

4. Employment and Income Assistance

- Follows the Pharmacare Formulary, but you will not pay a deductible
 - i. NRT not listed on formulary
 - ii. Varenicline and bupropion are on formulary (see #3)

5. Private Insurance Plans (ex. Blue Cross, Manulife, Great West Life, etc.)

- Depends on the plan, so have to call plan with client information to determine if client is eligible (or have client contact insurance company)
- Even if client is eligible, have they reached the maximum amount the insurance plan will pay for year? If they have, smoking cessation aid will not be paid for.
- Can use Healthcare Spending Account (value depends on plan); client will have to pay out of pocket and submit receipts after

6. Cancer Care Manitoba

- **Eligibility:** Cancer Care Manitoba patients and their family members, and staff and their family members
- **How to enroll?** Call 204-787-1202 or 1-888-775-9899 or speak to your Cancer Care Manitoba health provider to be referred