

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

Questions and Answers - Registered Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physiotherapists (PT) as recommenders of select MS&E benefits

1. Why are registered Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists recognized as recommenders of MS&E benefits under the NIHB Program?

The NIHB program currently accepts prescriptions from a physician or a nurse practitioner for medical supplies and equipment items. Effective April 15, 2019, the NIHB Program will also accept a written recommendation from an Occupational Therapist or a Physiotherapist for the coverage of a selected list of benefits. For these benefits, a prescription from a physician or nurse practitioner will no longer be required if a written recommendation from an Occupational Therapist or a Physiotherapist is provided.

2. When does this policy come into effect?

This policy is effective April 15, 2019, in all provinces and territories.

3. Which MS&E benefits are eligible for registered Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists to recommend under the NIHB Program?

Items that an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist can recommend include:

- Bathing and toileting aids, dressing aids, feeding aids, lifting and transfer aids
- Mobility aids and wheelchairs
- Cushions and protectors
- Off the shelf limbs and body orthotics
- Compression garments (renewals only)

The detailed list of benefits that an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist may recommend can be found in the prescriber column of the [NIHB MS&E Benefit Lists](#) available on the Government of Canada website. For more information on the MS&E policy and coverage and eligibility criteria please consult the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#).

4. Are all registered Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists eligible to recommend the specified MS&E benefits under the NIHB Program?

The NIHB Program accepts a recommendation from a registered Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist when the items recommended align with their scope of practice as defined by their regulatory body.

5. What information do registered Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists need to provide as part of their written recommendation for MS&E benefits under the NIHB Program?

The following information is required:

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