



PharmacareNEWS

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Nova Scotia Formulary Updates

Pharmacists Prescribing of Antimicrobial Therapy for the Treatment of Early Lyme Disease

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Effective July 15, public funding for pharmacists to assess and prescribe for **treatment** of early Lyme disease will be available.

This is in accordance with the changes to the Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs Appendix G – Prescribing for a Diagnosis Supported by a Protocol. [Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs \(nspharmacists.ca\)](https://www.nspharmacists.ca/standards-of-practice-prescribing-drugs). The standards set out the competencies required to provide this care by indicating;

- patient eligibility requirements for treatment of early Lyme disease by a pharmacist; and
- the treatment protocol must be consistent with the [Nova Scotia Infectious Disease Expert Group Guidance](#).

As per the Standards of Practice, the Services can be provided to individuals who:

- present with a localized erythema migrans rash (>5cm);
- do not require confirmatory laboratory testing; and
- are not presenting with complicating factors or signs and symptoms suggestive of early disseminated or late Lyme disease as set out in clinical practice guidelines.

Pharmacists who undertake prescribing for the treatment of early Lyme disease must ensure that they have taken steps to ensure that they are competent to reasonably identify an erythema migrans rash.

Pharmacists Prescribing of Antimicrobial Therapy for the Treatment of Early Lyme Disease Continued...

The new service PIN is identified below. This is in addition to the service PINS currently in place. Please note the existing PIN for assessment and prescribing for Lyme disease chemoprophylaxis that does not result in a prescription has been expanded to include early treatment of Lyme that **does not** result in a prescription.

Pharmacies can submit electronic claims for the fee associated with each PIN. Special service code 002 (pharmacist intervention) should be used for all PINs and claims will require criteria codes to indicate whether they were delivered in person (91), or by video (93). Since an erythema migrans rash must be visualized, telephone assessments are not acceptable. Claims will require a valid Nova Scotia health card number and there is no age limit. Manual claims will not be accepted.

Claims must be submitted electronically using the following CPhA Claims Standard field content. This new service PIN will provide public funding for pharmacists to assess and treat early Lyme disease at a rate of \$20.00.

CPhA Claims Standard – Fee to Assess and Prescribe an Antibiotic for the Treatment of Early Lyme Disease

Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899729
D.57.03	Special Service Code	002 (pharmacist intervention)
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	License number
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.72.03	Special Services Fee(s)	2000 (\$20.00)

CPhA Claims Standard – Fee to Assess for Chemoprophylaxis or Treatment of Early Lyme Disease that Does Not Result in a Prescription

Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899839
D.57.03	Special Service Code	002 (pharmacist intervention)
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	License number
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.72.03	Special Services Fee(s)	2000 (\$20.00)

Pharmacists Prescribing of Antimicrobial Therapy for the Treatment of Early Lyme Disease Continued...

As a reminder, the current PIN for chemoprophylaxis to assess for and prescribe for prophylaxis of Lyme disease can be found below:

CPhA Claims Standard – Fee for Assessment and Prescribing for Lyme Disease Chemoprophylaxis Resulting in a Prescription		
Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899840
D.57.03	Special Service Code	002 (pharmacist intervention)
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	License number
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.72.03	Special Services Fee(s)	2000 (\$20.00)