Appendix C – Drug Benefit Review Process

Currently the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is participating in four initiatives related to the sharing of resources in reviewing submissions for coverage under the NLPDP, the **Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR)**, the **National Common Drug Review (CDR)**, the **Pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR)** and the **Pan-Canadian Pricing Alliance.**

These expert advisory committees are comprised of practicing physicians, pharmacists and others with expertise in drug therapy and drug evaluation. They review and evaluate scientific and economic information on new drugs and make a recommendation to provincial drug programs on whether a drug should be listed as a program benefit, including conditions and/or criteria for coverage.

Atlantic Common Drug Review

The Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR) assesses the clinical and cost effectiveness of drugs that do not fall under the mandates of the National Common Drug Review (CDR) or the Pan Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR), and provides formulary listing recommendations to the provincially funded drug plans in Atlantic Canada.

Drugs reviewed by ACDR include:

- New single source products that do not fall under the CDR mandate
- Line extensions
- Resubmissions for products not previously reviewed by CDR
- Currently listed drugs
- Drug classes

Prioritization of Reviews

Submissions are accepted on an on-going basis and there are no deadlines unless specifically stated. In general, submissions are reviewed in order of receipt of complete submissions. However, changes may be made in exceptional cases.
Submissions are reviewed by an external consultant and a drug evaluation report prepared for the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee (AEAC). The AEAC makes a recommendation to Atlantic provincial drug programs on whether a drug should be listed as a program benefit.

Information on the Atlantic Common Drug Review process can be located at:
http://novascotia.ca/dhw/pharmacare/atlantic-common-drug-review.asp

National Common Drug Review

The National Common Drug Review (CDR) provides participating federal, provincial and territorial drug benefit plans with a systematic review of the best available clinical evidence, a critique of manufacturer-submitted pharmacoeconomic studies and a formulary listing recommendation made by the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC).

Submissions for new chemical entities, new combination products and resubmissions related to these products should be filed with the CDR Directorate. Information on the CDR requirements and procedures is posted at: www.cadth.ca.

Pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review

The pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) was established by the provincial and territorial Ministries of Health, excluding Quebec, to assess the clinical evidence and cost effectiveness of new cancer drugs and to use this information to make recommendations to the provinces and territories to guide their funding decisions.

Established in 2010 by the provincial and territorial Ministries of Health, pCODR is designed to bring consistency and clarity to the assessment of new cancer drugs by looking at both clinical evidence and cost-effectiveness.

Along with the provinces and territories, with the exception of Quebec, pCODR partners are the provincial cancer agencies, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH).

Information on the pCODR process can be found at www.pcodr.ca

Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance

The Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (PCPA) conducts joint provincial/territorial negotiations for brand name and generic drugs in Canada to achieve greater value for publicly funded drug programs and patients. Due to combined "buying power" of drug plans across multiple provinces and territories, the PCPA aims to:

a. Achieve lower drug costs and consistent pricing,
b. Increase access to drug treatment options, and
c. Improve consistency of coverage across Canada.

Departmental Process:

After final recommendations are made by ACDR, CDR, pCODR, or pCPA the Newfoundland and Labrador member of the applicable review process prepares a summary of the recommendations and forwards them to the executive committee of the

Department of Health and Community Services. Once a decision is made, the Pharmaceutical Services Division of the Department will notify the manufacturer of the listing decision.

In the case of a negative decision, the manufacturer has the option to resubmit based on the guidelines outlined on each review process website.

If the decision is to list under special authorization the established approval criteria will be communicated to the manufacturer in their notification letter from the Pharmaceutical Services Division.

All pharmacy providers are notified of approved benefits and/or amendments by NLPDP via website postings. All approved benefits are listed on the web site.