

Subject: Nicotine Replacement Therapy and COVID-19

Number: HB-MEMO-2020-006

Date Issued: April 6, 2020

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Distribution: **Community and Social Services**  
Delivery Services Portfolio

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**MESSAGE:**

Due to the rapidly evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the lifetime **Restricted Benefit** of \$500 per participant for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) will be increased to \$1000. This will support social distancing and self-isolation practices for our clients within transformed homeless shelters, such as the EXPO Center in Edmonton, as well as private residences.

If your client has reached their \$500 lifetime maximum, they can now access an additional \$500 for NRT if required. Community pharmacies will be informed of this increase to NRT funding on April 3, 2020.

Eligible NRT products included within the Alberta Drug Benefit List are:

- Nicotine Patches and Gum
- Nicorette Quickmist
- Nicorette Inhaler

The Health Benefit Exception Committee (HBEC) will not review exception requests for NRT until further notice due to the lifetime maximum increase.