

Information for Prescribers/Pharmacists

Notice – Exception Drug Status Application Processing Times
January 21, 2021

- The Exception Drug Status (EDS) Program receives approximately 200 applications a day. While EDS requests are generally prioritized by the date on which they were received, requests are triaged according to the level of urgency and/or priority. This triage process takes into consideration such factors as the type of drug requested, the condition for which the drug is being used, and the patient-specific circumstance.
- When an EDS application is approved, the effective date of coverage is the date on which the EDS application was received at the EDS office, NOT the date the application was approved.
- Turnaround time for EDS assessment begins on the business day on which the EDS office receives a complete application from an authorized prescriber. Prescribers are provided with a 30-day period to provide all additional information as requested by the EDS office. Requests that remain incomplete beyond the 30-day period will be considered cancelled.

EDS Application Review Turnaround Times

Urgent – 1 to 2 business days

- Examples include: antibiotics; antivirals; oral antifungals; anticoagulants; post-transplant immunosuppressants.

Priority – 3 to 5 business days

- Examples include: cancer treatments or medications to support chemotherapy; palliative care medications; analgesics listed under the Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program.

Chronic – 5 to 10 business days

- Examples include: medications being used to treat chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes or osteoporosis.

If you require further information, please contact the Help Desk by phone at 204-786-8000 or visit:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/healthprofessionals.html>