



**Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health**

300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

July 10, 2026

Re: Discontinuation of Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine 150/300mg tablets), updated HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) product distribution, prescription, and drug coverage

Dear Health Care Provider:

Due to the discontinuation of anti-retroviral agent Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine 150/300mg tablets), the following changes are occurring:

1. Product Substitute

The lamivudine/zidovudine 150/300mg combined product, Combivir, has been the recommended option in HIV PEP kits for individuals six years of age and older, weighing at least 35 kg and with reduced renal function (defined as creatinine clearance less than or equal to 59 mL/min/1.73m³).

Lamivudine and zidovudine will now be distributed as **individual components**.

- Lamivudine supplied as 150mg tablets (i.e. one tablet twice daily)
- Zidovudine supplied as 100mg capsules (i.e. three capsules twice daily)

Both the 3-day starter packs and 25-day prescriptions are affected by this supply change. This change is effective immediately for all PEP starter kits and prescriptions. It is recognized that this change will result in increased pill burden and potentially challenges with PEP completion. Review of HIV PEP recommendations are planned and any updates will be communicated when available. All other HIV PEP starter kits and regimen recommendations remain unchanged at this time.

2. Modification to PEP Prescription

The Manitoba Health Medication Coverage and Prescription Form: HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (<https://gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/hiv-coverage-and-prescription.pdf>) is updated to represent the change from Combivir to individual products.

In addition, updates to the PEP prescription have been made to reflect that the full 28-day course of HIV PEP is covered under the **Manitoba Enhanced Pharmacare Program (MEPP)** for anyone with an active Manitoba Health Registration Number. If the patient has 100% coverage through an insurance program (Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB), Employment Income Assistance, or Workers Compensation), the cost will be billed to these programs instead, as these individuals are ineligible for MEPP.



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

Public Health

300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

For more information about the MEPP, please visit the program website (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/mepp.html>).

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility.

Sincerely,

“Original Signed by”

Richard Baydack, PhD

Executive Director

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

“Original Signed by”

Santina Lee, MD, FRCPC

Medical Officer of Health

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control