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Non-Insured Health Benefits

Medical Supplies and Equipment Bulletin
General MS&E Benefits

February 2001

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program provides supplementary health benefits, including Medical Supplies and Equipment, to eligible First Nations and Inuit throughout Canada.

Visit our Web Site at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/msb/nihb

This NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Bulletin - General MS&E Benefits provides information about the general MS&E benefits available under the NIHB Program. It includes an overview of NIHB policy, the prior approval process, repairs, replacement and warranty guidelines. Providers can find more detailed information in the NIHB MS&E Provider Information Kit. Information is also available on the NIHB web site at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/msb/nihb.

In January 1999, a review of the MS&E benefits was undertaken as part of a larger effort to improve the management of the NIHB Program and to ensure that the benefits reflect client needs, current clinical practices, changes in health care delivery and NIHB policy. The changes resulting from the review will be implemented on April 1, 2001. Please note that the range of benefits provided remains the same although additional benefit codes have been added to the General MS&E Benefit List to clearly identify eligible benefits and to enable the NIHB Program to perform comprehensive benefit utilization analysis and audit activities.

General MS&E Benefit Categories

- a. Bathing and Toileting Aids
- b. Cushions and Protectors
- c. Environmental Aids
 - Dressing Aids
 - Feeding Aids
- d. Miscellaneous Supplies and Equipment
- e. Lifting and Transfer Aids
- f. Mobility Aids
 - Walking Aids & Accessories
 - Wheelchairs, wheelchair cushions and parts
- g. Ostomy Supplies and Devices
- h. Urinary Supplies and Equipment
 - Catheter Supplies and Equipment
 - Incontinence Supplies
- i. Wound Dressing Supplies
 - Adhesive Tapes & Dressing Strips
 - Bandages
 - Dressings
 - Other Dressings

The following will be implemented on April 1, 2001:

- the removal of some prescription and prior approval requirements;
- diabetic supplies (urine and blood testing supplies, glucose monitors, saline solutions, needles and syringes), all purpose needles and syringes, condoms/contraceptive aids and spacers for inhalation will **only** be available from pharmacy providers;
- repairs no longer require a prescription.

Prior Approval Process

For those benefits requiring prior approval, the *NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Prior Approval Form* (see sample on reverse side) is required. The Form, the prescription and any supporting medical documentation must be returned to the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Regional Office for review. To avoid delays in the review of the request, please ensure the Form is fully completed. If a prior approval is granted, a PA number will be provided for billing purposes. If a prior approval is not granted, the provider will be advised of the reason and will be asked to inform the client of his or her right of appeal.

In the case of a repair, although a prescription is no longer required, the *NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Prior Approval Form* must be completed and include the reason for the request.

For Ontario Residents - providers must first contact the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) of the Ontario Ministry of Health to access benefits.

Recommended Replacement and Warranty Guidelines

Guidelines outlining the recommended quantities or replacements are based on the average needs of clients. Requests exceeding these guidelines may be considered on a case by case basis if the medical need is demonstrated. All warranty coverage must be exhausted before repairs or replacements can be considered.

NIHB MS&E Claim Form

The client address section of the *NIHB MS&E Claim Form* must be completed prior to sending to First Canadian Health for payment. If the address field is not completed, the Form will be returned to the provider for completion.

Please note that claims dated over one year from the date of service will not be considered for payment.

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