



# Non-Insured Health Benefits

Medical Transportation Bulletin

July 2005

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program provides supplementary health benefits, including medical transportation, for registered First Nations and recognized Inuit throughout Canada.

Visit our Web site at: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/nihb](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/nihb)

## IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

Key changes to medical transportation benefits include the following:

- Benefits provided under the NIHB Program (e.g., vision, dental, mental health) are now explicitly included as medically required health services for which medical transportation benefits are available.
- National rates for private vehicle usage have been established. Contact your First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Regional Office for further information.
- Clear criteria for funding transportation to access addictions treatment centres has been established.
- Where clients must travel repeatedly for an extended period, medical transportation benefits will be provided for up to four months of travel, previously three months, and an assessment involving the associated health professional and the client will establish the ongoing need for transportation benefits.

## THE REVISED NIHB MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

The *NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework* has been revised to clarify key policies, ensure national consistency, and promote a better understanding of program requirements. This updated version incorporates responses to input from First Nations, Inuit and other stakeholders. As this document evolves, additional comments are welcome.

## SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK

The *NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework* is a key document, outlining policies and benefits that help clients access medical services. It applies to the provision of all medical transportation benefits funded through FNIHB. It assists eligible First Nations and Inuit clients to access services provided by medical professionals, tests, dental care, and other approved treatments considered medically necessary. As previously, clients must have exhausted all other available sources of benefits in order to be eligible for the NIHB medical transportation benefits.

Benefits may include arranging for transportation, meals, accommodation or escort services to help clients travel, providing financial assistance to clients to travel themselves, or arranging for these medical services to be brought into the community. Transportation is to the nearest appropriate health professional or facility and is coordinated with other appointments whenever practical and economical.

Generally, clients must have their transportation benefits approved before they travel, including travel of an escort. Confirmation of attendance at the appointment must be obtained from the health professional.

For the full details on all benefits and criteria, please consult the *NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework*. Program information materials regarding medical transportation benefits are available. Copies of the *NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework* may be obtained through FNIHB Regional Offices or on the NIHB Web site at: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/nihb](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/nihb)

*“Our mission is to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health”*