



Non-Insured Health Benefits

Medical Transportation Bulletin

April 2003

The NIHB Program provides supplementary health benefits, including medical transportation, for registered Indians and recognized Inuit and Innu throughout Canada.
Visit our Web Site at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/nihb

Welcome to the first edition of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program Medical Transportation Bulletin. This Bulletin will be published as needed to provide timely information about NIHB Medical Transportation benefits.

The NIHB Program provides a limited range of medically necessary health-related goods and services not provided through other private or provincial/territorial health insurance plans to eligible registered Indians and recognized Inuit. The benefits provided include drugs, medical supplies and equipment, crisis intervention counselling, dental care, vision care and medical transportation benefits to access medically required health services not available on the reserve or community of residence.

Interim NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework

A review of medical transportation benefits has been underway for the past two years, involving meetings with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch staff and First Nations and Inuit representatives. The regional policies and guidelines have been compiled into a single national NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework to ensure a consistent approach to the management and administration of medical transportation benefits.

The Interim Medical Transportation Policy Framework takes effect **April 1, 2003**, and defines the terms and conditions under which the NIHB Program will assist eligible clients to access medically required health services.

These terms and conditions support the objective of the NIHB Program to provide benefits in a manner that is suitable to meet the health need, are comparable to that of other Canadians and are sustainable from a fiscal and benefit management perspective.

The Framework contains definitions for frequently used terms as well as sections on policy provisions, criteria used to determine client eligibility, client escorts, meals, accommodation, emergency transportation, requirements for confirmation of appointments, travel to access traditional healer services, reimbursement of travel expenses, non-benefits and the appeal process. Please read this information carefully.

Application of the Interim NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework

The Interim NIHB Medical Transportation Framework applies to the provision of all medical transportation benefits by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Regional Office. It also applies to First Nations/Inuit or third party (e.g. territorial governments) health authorities who receive funds from Health Canada to provide medical transportation benefits to eligible clients in accordance with the terms and conditions of a signed Contribution Agreement.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, a regional discussion process will be initiated with First Nations and Inuit to look at the ongoing management and sustainability of medical transportation benefits. For additional information please contact your Regional First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Office or visit the NIHB Program Web Site <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/nihb>