



Health Santé
Canada Canada

Non-Insured Health Benefits

Medical Supplies and Equipment Bulletin
Orthotic, Custom Footwear and Prosthetic 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 is a revised version of the November 2000 Bulletin. It provides information about the orthotic, custom footwear and prosthetic benefits provided under the NIHB Program. It includes an overview of NIHB policy, the prior approval process and 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. Changes to this category of MS&E benefits were implemented on December 1, 2000. The range of benefits provided remains the same although additional benefit codes have been added to the benefit lists to clearly identify eligible benefits and to enable the NIHB Program to perform comprehensive benefit utilization analysis and audit activities.

New prescriber, provider and diagnostic and assessment requirements for these benefit categories were implemented December 1, 2000.

PRESCRIBERS FOR:

LIMB AND BODY ORTHOTIC DEVICES

Class I (soft) orthotic device: Physician.

Class II (rigid) orthotic device: Medical or surgical specialist in the field of physiatry, orthopedics, plastic surgery, neurology, rheumatology, pediatrics, geriatrics or general surgery.

Class III (custom made) orthotic device: Medical or surgical specialist in the field of physiatry, orthopedics, plastic surgery, neurology, rheumatology, pediatrics, geriatrics or general surgery.

CUSTOM MADE FOOTWEAR

Medical or surgical specialist in the field of physiatry, orthopedics, plastic surgery, neurology, rheumatology, pediatrics, geriatrics, general surgery or infectious diseases.

CUSTOM MADE INTERNAL FOOTWEAR DEVICES (foot orthotics) AND MODIFICATIONS TO STOCK FOOTWEAR

Physician or medical or surgical specialist in the field of physiatry, orthopedics, plastic surgery, neurology, rheumatology, pediatrics, geriatrics, general surgery or infectious diseases.

PROSTHETIC DEVICES

Medical or surgical specialist in the field of physiatry, pediatrics, orthopedics, ophthalmology, general surgery or infectious diseases.

PROVIDERS FOR:

LIMB AND BODY ORTHOTIC DEVICES

Class I (soft): Certified Orthotist(c), chiropodist, podiatrist.

***Note: foam cervical collar, abdominal support, hernia truss and sacral or lumbosacral support, cloth or elastic braces with or without steel stays can be provided by pharmacy and MS&E providers.*

Class II (rigid), Class III (custom made): Certified Orthotist CO(c), Certified Prosthetist CP(c) or Certified Prosthetist Orthotist CPO(c) as certified by the Canadian Board for the Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists (CBCPO), chiropodist, podiatrist.

CUSTOM MADE FOOTWEAR, CUSTOM MADE INTERNAL FOOTWEAR DEVICES AND MODIFICATIONS TO STOCK FOOTWEAR

Certified Orthotist CO(c), Certified Prosthetist Orthotist CPO(c), Chiropodist, Podiatrist.

PROSTHETIC DEVICES

Breast prosthesis: Certified fitter.

Eye prosthesis: Certified ocularist as certified by the National Examining Board of Ocularists (NEBO).

Limb prosthesis: Certified Prosthetist CP(c) or certified Prosthetist Orthotist CPO(c) as certified by the Canadian Board for the Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists (CBCPO).

Prior Approval Process

The NIHB Prior Approval Form for Orthotics, Custom Footwear, Prosthetics and Pressure Garments must be completed for all orthotic, custom footwear, prosthetic and pressure garment and pressure orthotic benefits. The client must have a prescription from an approved prescriber and take it to an approved provider, as listed above. The Form must be fully completed including the medical diagnosis and detailed assessment (with casting or measurements when applicable). Under Section 4 (Equipment or Supplies Requested), the provider must describe the manufacturing techniques and materials to be used and indicate whether an in-house or external laboratory will be used to manufacture the device.

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. If a prior approval is granted, a PA number will be provided for billing purposes. Only then should the provider proceed with the fabrication/fitting/dispensing. 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. The client must sign the Form when receiving the benefit and the document should be kept on file by the provider.

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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