



Non-Insured Health Benefits

Dental Bulletin

October 2005

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO DENTAL BENEFITS

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

Visit our Website at: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/nihb

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

The June 2005 Program changes, the Revised NIHB Regional Dental Benefit Grid and NIHB Dental Policy Framework have been implemented to make the benefits of the NIHB Program more understandable to providers, to provide consistency in the application of benefits, to streamline administration, and to facilitate use of the EDI claims submission process. These changes are a result of the recommendations from the January 2005 Federal Dental Care Advisory Committee (FDCAC) meeting, involving the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). This process complemented the ongoing work of the NIHB Dental Program staff to improve access to care for First Nations and Inuit clients.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2005, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED TO THE NIHB DENTAL PROGRAM:

- * To facilitate claims submissions, the annual \$800.00 threshold has been removed. Previously, any procedures, including basic services above this amount, required predetermination;
- * The predetermination requirement for endodontic therapy on anterior teeth (13-23 and 33-43 inclusive) has been removed; and
- * Providers can now add the necessary NIHB data elements to the following accepted forms: The Standard Dental Claim Form, ACDQ Dental Claim and Treatment Form, and computer generated forms.

NIHB REGIONAL DENTAL BENEFIT GRID

Effective October 1, 2005, the revised NIHB Regional Dental Benefit Grid will be implemented, and will replace the previous version.

The NIHB Regional Dental Benefit Grid identifies what services require predetermination by placing benefits into one of the following two schedules:

- * Schedule A: outlines services that may be provided and billed directly to First Canadian Health (FCH) for payment, without predetermination, while taking into account identified Program limits.
- * Schedule B: outlines services that require predetermination. The predetermination process remains unchanged and is administered through the NIHB Regional Offices.

In addition, the revised grid includes:

- * Implementation of the Crown, Periodontic and Revised Endodontic Policy; and
- * Removal of program limits on selected services (for example: retentive pins).

Please refer to Schedule A and B of the NIHB Regional Dental Benefit Grid and NIHB Dental Policy Framework for details of changes now incorporated in the NIHB Dental Program.

Note: Denturist grids will not be split into A&B Schedules.

NIHB DENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The NIHB Dental Policy Framework defines the policies of the Program, the eligibility requirement for clients, the types of benefits to be provided and criteria under which they will be funded. Policies in this framework include the following:

- * Revised Endodontic Policy
- * Crown Policy
- * Periodontic Policy
- * Orthodontic Policy

For more information on the Framework and other NIHB documents, please refer to the Health Canada Website at: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/nihb, or contact your FNIHB Regional Office.