

## For our Medical Supplies and Equipment Providers

Winter 2008-2009

### NEWS AND VIEWS

Welcome to the Winter 2008-2009 edition of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) quarterly newsletter. First Canadian Health (FCH) is now in its eleventh year of operations as the claims processor for the NIHB Program of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of Health Canada.

Again, FCH would like to thank you for your support as you continue to provide quality health services to First Nations and Inuit clients of the NIHB Program.

As always, your comments and questions are welcome. Please contact the FCH NIHB Toll-Free Inquiry Centre at **1-888-471-1111**, or send your correspondence to:

FCH Provider Relations  
3080 Yonge Street, Suite 3002  
Toronto, ON M4N 3N1

### NEW NIHB PROGRAM INFORMATION

#### HEALTH INFORMATION CLAIMS PROCESSING SERVICES

Effective December 1, 2009, ESI Canada will administer the Health Information and Claims Processing Services (HICPS) for MS&E benefits covered by the NIHB Program.

In order to ensure that claims for services rendered to NIHB clients can be processed quickly and efficiently and that payments of such claims can be directed to appropriate MS&E providers after December 1, 2009, MS&E providers will need to re-register with ESI Canada.

In the coming weeks, ESI Canada will be sending providers an information package, which will include all the necessary documentation required for re-registration with ESI Canada. In order to ensure a seamless transition during the re-registration process, the ESI Canada NIHB Provider Re-registration Centre will be available to assist providers with any questions regarding the completion of the required documentation.

Providers may continue to submit claims to First Canadian Health (FCH) until November 30, 2009.

Additional information on ESI Canada is available at the following website address:

[www.esicanada.ca](http://www.esicanada.ca)

#### NIHB PROGRAM POLICY CHANGE FOR PRESCRIBING NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Effective January 12, 2009, Health Canada's NIHB Program implemented a new policy authorizing Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to prescribe a limited list of MS&E items. This change is in effect in all regions, except the Yukon. It is anticipated to come into effect in the Yukon later this year when the Nurse Practitioners' scope of practice becomes territorially legislated. The NIHB Program communicated to providers via a broadcast message that prescriptions from NPs will be covered by the NIHB Program for both drugs and MS&E items.

Note: MS&E benefits requiring a specialist prescription, home oxygen and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) are not eligible for coverage if prescribed by an NP.

A list of all MS&E items eligible for coverage under the NIHB Program can be found in the "Benefits and Criteria" section of the NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Health Provider Information Kit. This list is available at the following URL address:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/provider/med-equip/criter/index-eng.php>

#### NIHB PROGRAM REMINDER

#### CHANGE OF PROVIDER INFORMATION

It is important that providers notify FCH when one or more of the following occurs:

- Change of address
- Change of phone number or fax number
- Change of ownership
- Change of business name
- Closure of a location
- Opening a new location
- Change or stop electronic funds transfer

This ensures that provider records are kept up-to-date in the NIHB Health Information and Claims Processing Services (HICPS) system, which in turn ensures that any communication or payment is sent to providers in a timely manner.

This information must be provided in writing and sent to the following address:

**First Canadian Health  
Provider Relations  
3080 Yonge Street, Suite 3002  
Toronto, ON M4N 3N1**

Should you have any questions, please contact the FCH NIHB Toll-Free Inquiry Centre at **1-888-471-1111**.

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If you need a printed version of the NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Health Provider Information Kit, please download it from the NIHB website at the following address:

**[www.healthcanada.gc.ca/nihb](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/nihb)**

Providers without internet access can contact the FCH NIHB Toll-Free Inquiry Centre at **1-888-471-1111** to request a printed copy.

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