



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

**What follows is a reminder sent on behalf of the BC First Nations Health Authority (FNHA):**

## **CHANGES TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BENEFIT COVERAGE FOR FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY CLIENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Effective October 1, 2017**, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) clients in British Columbia will become beneficiaries of the BC PharmaCare program. On that date, most FNHA clients who have been receiving benefits through Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program will be eligible for prescription drug coverage and pharmacy services under PharmaCare First Nations Health Benefits Plan (Plan W).

Plan W will cover 100% of eligible prescription and dispensing fee costs and certain medical supplies and devices and will be the first payer for FNHA clients enrolled in the Plan. All FNHA clients whose MSP premiums are paid by FNHA will be automatically enrolled.

**Note: There will be approximately a 3 hour gap in coverage between 9:00pm September 30, 2017 and 12:00am October 1, 2017 while system changes are made.**

### **Travelling Out of Province**

FNHA clients are encouraged to plan ahead before travelling out of province, and fill their prescriptions in BC before travelling. If clients fill prescriptions while away, they will need to pay the out-of-pocket costs and apply for claims reimbursement.

### **NIHB coverage after September 30, 2017 9:00pm Pacific Time**

NIHB will continue to cover a select number of drugs and devices for Plan W beneficiaries. In addition, NIHB will provide transitional coverage with a parallel Plan W formulary for FNHA clients not yet enrolled in Plan W. These will adjudicate automatically when the claim is sent to NIHB. As this is an interim situation, FNHA is actively pursuing solutions to move all FNHA clients onto PharmaCare Plan W.

### **Registration with Provincial Agencies**

FNHA clients may have previously received prescription drug coverage for the treatment of cancer, renal (kidney) diseases, solid organ transplants and HIV/AIDS through NIHB. Similar to other BC residents, FNHA clients are eligible to receive prescription drug coverage services from BC specialty agencies (BC Cancer Agency, BC Renal Agency, BC Transplant, and BC Centre of Excellence for HIV/AIDS). To receive prescription drug coverage through the agencies, clients must be enrolled by their physician or appropriate specialist.

### **Assistance with PharmaCare Plan W**

For difficulties with claims that do not adjudicate as expected, call the PharmaNet Helpdesk at 1-800-554-0225.

FNHA clients requiring further support are encouraged to call the FNHA at 1-855-550-5454 or email [HealthBenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:HealthBenefits@fnha.ca).