

October 6, 2008

To: Pharmacy Providers

Re: Short-Term Dispensing Policy for Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) claims

On September 9th, 2008 (September 28th, 2008 for Saskatchewan), Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program implemented a new policy establishing compensation rules for short-term dispensing of medications used for chronic conditions.

All claims with less than a 28 days supply of medications that are used for chronic conditions are subject to the NIHB short-term dispensing policy and should be submitted with a dispensing fee equal to: Dispensing Fee/28 x Days Supply. Further details on the new policy can be found by visiting the NIHB website at the following address:

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/provide-fournir/pharma-prod/pol-eng.php#s

The purpose of this communication is to inform providers that the adjudication system change scheduled for November 1st, 2008 has been postponed until the early part of 2009. Software vendors and pharmacists have raised concerns that the new rules and the implementation of the related adjudication system control may conflict with CPhA standards and would require changes or updates to pharmacy software. In response, Health Canada is working with its claims processor to address these concerns. Further details regarding the implementation of the adjudication system change will be provided in the near future.

Providers are reminded that, pending the adjudication system change, all claims for short-term dispensing of medications used for chronic conditions are subject to a special audit process and any dispensing fees paid in excess of the provisions of the new policy will be recovered.

If you have questions, please contact the FCH NIHB Toll-Free Inquiry Centre at 1-888-511-4666.

Sincerely,

First Canadian Health Communications Department