



Health Canada Santé Canada

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September 19, 2008

Your file

Votre référence

Our file

Notre référence

Mr. Denis Darby  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario Pharmacists' Association  
375 University Ave. Suite 800,  
Toronto, ON M5G 2J5

**FAXED**  
Sept. 22/08

Dear Mr. Darby:

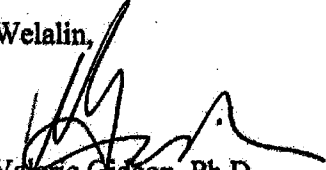
Thank you for your letter of September 8, 2008, setting out challenges related to the implementation of Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) Program's new short term dispensing policy.

As set out in the material provided to pharmacists, the policy went into effect September 9, 2008. The period between the "soft implementation" and the system change is intended to allow pharmacy providers sufficient time to align their billing practices with the policy. Until system changes are made, audit activities related to the transition period between September 9, 2008 and the system change will focus on those providers who were historically the most flagrant abusers of short term dispensing.

We fully appreciate the technical complexities involved with the implementation of the policy. I would like to assure you that we are working with software vendors through our claims processor to provide a seamless transition for pharmacists. If system changes cannot be made smoothly by November 1, 2008 we are prepared to countenance a latter date and will inform your members accordingly.

Moving forward, we remain committed to working in collaboration with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association in order to establish a long-term and productive relationship.

Welain,

  
Valerie Gidson, Ph.D.  
Regional Director  
First Nations & Inuit Health  
Ontario Region

cc: David Baker, Director General, NIHB  
Ida Campbell, Director, NIHB

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