



MEETING SD 11-20-24

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024
DET'ANCHOGH KÚÉ - EAGLE ROOM
1:30 PM**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters: Technical Briefing with Officials from the Department of Health and Social Services regarding Extended Health Benefits
6. In Camera Matters:
 - a. Debrief
 - b. Scheduling Hearings: Statutory Review of Mental Health Act
7. New Business
 - a.
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: At the Call of the Chair
9. Adjournment



Extended Health Benefits

Standing Committee on Social Development - Briefing

April 19, 2024



Objective of this Presentation

- To provide a brief overview of the current Extended Health Benefits Policy
- To provide an overview of the changes to the Extended Health Benefits Policy, to be implemented September 1, 2024.



Current Extended Health Benefit Policy

- Eligibility is for residents without access to other insurance plans
- Residents with access to NIHB, MHB and employer-sponsored plans are not eligible for EHB unless diagnosed with a specified disease condition (SDC)
- EHB is currently for two groups – Seniors 60 years and older and persons diagnosed with a specified disease condition (SDC)
- Seniors have access to a range of benefits including prescription drugs, MSE, dental treatment, medical travel and some coverage for eyewear
- Persons eligible for SDC are mostly covered for prescription drugs, and in certain cases, medical travel.

Why Are We Making Changes?

- Current policy outdated - doesn't meet the principles of good public policy - equity, fairness and fiscal responsibility.
- The list of specified disease conditions is limited – doesn't cover all disease conditions.
- Refocus the new policy on a person's financial ability to access benefits rather than on a diagnosis of a disease condition.
 - This is the most fair and equitable way to support residents.
- Due to ongoing significant cost increases (mostly drug costs), FMB directed review of cost drivers and a plan to address.



What is Changing?

- No need for a specified disease condition to get benefits
- Income assessment determines eligibility for benefits
- Residents with low-income – will have access to drug, MSE, vision care, dental benefits without cost sharing arrangement
- Residents above low-income threshold - will have access to drug and MSE benefits with a cost sharing arrangement, with limits to what they must pay (family maximums)



New Extended Health Benefits Policy

- Income Assessment – applicants provide CRA Notice of Assessment; Net Income (Line 23600) for the most recent tax year.
 - Net Income and family make-up determine the benefits residents are eligible for and the cost-share portion, if required.
- Income Thresholds – each year, regional income thresholds will be reviewed and revised in accordance with the Northern Market Basket Measure for the year.



5 Benefit Areas	1. Drug Benefits	2. Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits	3. Vision Care Benefits	4. Dental Benefits	5. Extended Health Travel Benefits
Eligibility Criteria	Assessed below low-income threshold; or Assessed above low-income threshold; or 60 years of age or older	Assessed below low-income threshold; or Assessed above low-income; or 60 years of age or older	Assessed below low-income threshold; or 60 years of age or older	Assessed below low-income; or 60 years of age or older; or Resident eligible in accordance with Schedule 4(i)(c)	60 years of age or older; or Eligible in accordance with Schedule 2 or Schedule 4
Benefits	Drug Benefits in accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 1	MSE Benefits in accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 2.	Vision (eyewear) benefits in accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 3.	Dental Benefits in accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 4.	Travel Benefits in accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 5
Cost Sharing	In accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 1	In accordance with EHB Policy, Schedule 2	No cost share	No cost share	No cost share

Implementation

- ABC is making changes to their information system to process claims under the new Policy.
- This work will be ready for September 1, 2024.
- Residents can apply for EHB benefits in June 2024.
- We will start to communicate detailed program benefits and application processes to the public in April 2024.



Communications

- In the coming months leading up to September 1, there will be communications materials posted.
- This information will guide residents through the benefits available and the application process.



Questions

