

Special Bulletin for NIHB Pharmacy Providers

Extension of provider registration period as Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program makes its transition to a new claims processor - ESI Canada.

On December 6, 2009 Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB) will be completing its transition to its new claims processor. On that day, ESI Canada will take over from our previous claims processor First Canadian Health (FCH). As part of this transition, providers previously registered with FCH need to register with ESI Canada in order to continue to bill directly for services rendered or goods delivered to NIHB clients.

Over the past several months NIHB has worked closely with health care providers to facilitate the registration process with ESI Canada. We wish to acknowledge the support and cooperation of service providers who have duly registered with ESI Canada. To date providers representing approximately 63% of claim expenditures processed by NIHB have registered.

To accommodate an anticipated surge in last minute registrations and to facilitate a seamless transition for both providers and First Nations and Inuit clients, NIHB has asked ESI Canada to extend the registration period until March 31, 2010.

While arrangements have been made to process claims *on a temporary basis* for providers not yet registered using the provider number previously issued by FCH, please note that the submission of claims in this manner will be taken as an acceptance of all NIHB terms and conditions.

If you have submitted your documentation recently, you should receive a letter soon from ESI Canada confirming your registration.

Providers who have not yet registered are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Advantages of registration include access to on-line adjudication in real-time and regular reimbursement from the claims processor.

Registration with ESI Canada will be required by the March 31, 2010 date. Following this date any unregistered provider will be unable to bill Health Canada directly through ESI Canada's electronic claims processing system.

Please note: If you were receiving payment by direct deposit, until ESI Canada receives your agreement, all payments will be made by cheque and sent by mail and not directly deposited into your bank account.

For further information or to receive a copy of the enrolment package, please contact ESI Canada's NIHB Provider Enrolment centre at 1-888-830-8009 or visit the following website: www.provider.esicanada.ca or email: ESICanadaNIHBProviderEnrolment@Express-Scripts.com.

For questions for Health Canada related to this process, please contact Sony Perron, Director, Operational Services and Systems Division, NIHB HQ at 613-957-3294 or visit: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/provide-fournir/index-eng.php.