

November 24, 2009

Non-Insured Health Benefits Program
55 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, Ontario
PL 4006A
K1A 0K9

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Mr. Scott Ransome
Executive Director
The Manitoba Society of Pharmacies
202-90 Gary Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 4H1

Dear ~~Mr Ransome~~ ^{Scott},

RE: Update on Pharmacy Provider Enrolment with ESI Canada for Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

Further to previous communications regarding upcoming changes to the NIHB Program, we would like to provide your organization with an update on NIHB's transition to a new claims processor, ESI Canada. This change comes into effect on December 6, 2009. From this point on, ESI will process claims on behalf NIHB eligible First Nations and Inuit clients.

As of November 13, 2009, pharmacy providers representing approximately 63% of NIHB's claim expenditures have been registered. In recent weeks we have seen dramatic increases in registrations and anticipate more as we approach December 6, 2009.

To accommodate this anticipated surge in last minute registrations, NIHB has requested ESI Canada to extend the transition period until March 31, 2010. For this transition period providers will be allowed to use provider numbers issued by our previous claims processor, First Canadian Health.

In the long term, it is important to note that your members will only be able to process NIHB claims electronically in real-time and to have claims adjudicated at the point-of-sale, if they establish a billing relationship with ESI Canada by registering as a service provider. Your members, therefore, are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Should your members direct questions to your association about registration, you should be aware that any of the following steps can be taken to register:

1. Visit <http://provider.esicanada.ca/pharmacists.html>
2. Print, read and sign the ESI/NIHB Pharmacy provider agreement that is available [online](#).

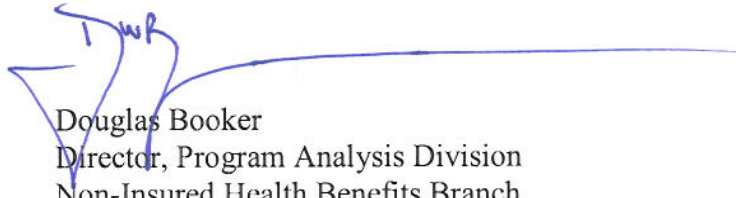
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3. Fax the completed form to 905 737 3161 or
4. Register by phone by calling the ESI pharmacy provider enrolment centre at 1-888-830-8009

We would also like to inform you that a special bulletin will be sent to all previously registered pharmacy providers during the week of November 23, 2009 regarding the extension of the registration period. It is attached for your information.

Thank you again for your association's continued interest and support as NIHB works through this transition period on behalf of eligible First Nation and Inuit clients.

Sincerely,



Douglas Booker
Director, Program Analysis Division
Non-Insured Health Benefits Branch
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Health Canada