

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Quebec Region
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Montréal (Québec) H2Z 1X4



July 20, 2015

Chiefs and Health Directors of First Nations in Québec

Subject: Memo on pharmaceutical goods and services under Law 41

Dear Chiefs and Health Directors of First Nations in Québec,

Following legislative changes as part of the new Law 41, in effect since June 20, 2015 expanding the business scope of pharmacists in Québec, we wish to inform you of the coverage by Health Canada of pharmaceutical services and goods provided. Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program does not cover the expenses related to professional actions leading to the filling of a prescription by the pharmacist. However, Health Canada reimburses pharmacists for the amounts corresponding to the cost of medications and prescription dispensing fees incurred in the following situations:

1. When the prescription has been extended by the pharmacist;
2. When the prescription has been adjusted by the pharmacist;
3. When a substitution of the prescription has been made by the pharmacist due to a disruption of supply;
4. When the medication is prescribed by a pharmacist for a minor condition of a patient who was diagnosed by a doctor or who was evaluated by a specialized nurse practitioner and who has already received a prescription from a physician or a specialized nurse practitioner for this same medical condition;
5. When the medication is prescribed by a pharmacist for the following minor conditions and when no diagnosis is required:
 - a. Perinatal vitamin supplements and folic acid
 - b. Nausea and vomiting related to pregnancy
 - c. Smoking cessation
 - d. Emergency oral contraception
 - e. Hormonal contraception following a consultation for emergency oral contraception
 - f. Pediculosis

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The Ministry of Health and Social Services of Québec will pay for the professional activities of pharmacists when they provide the following services for their clients:

- Assessing the need for the prescription of a medication for the treatment of minor conditions
- Assessing the need for the prescription of a medication in cases where no diagnosis is required
- Making an adjustment in order to achieve the therapeutic goals
- Extending a prescription.

We expect pharmacists to inform our clients of their intention to charge them for these services if and when these situations arise. Pharmacists should also inform our clients that they can continue to obtain equivalent services from a health professional (doctor or specialized nurse practitioner) whose fees are covered by the provincial health insurance plan.

Thank you for your understanding,



Richard Budgell
Regional Executive Director
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Québec Region
Health Canada, Government of Canada

