

BC PharmaCare to cover First Nations clients

What's changing?

As of October 1, 2017, the BC First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) has made an agreement with BC PharmaCare and the Non-Insured Health Benefits program (NIHB) to cover First Nations clients through the provincial health care program.

BC is the first province to deliver drug coverage to First Nations clients through its provincial health care program.

What does this mean for plan members?

FNHA clients living in BC and currently covered by Health Canada's NIHB program will be eligible under BC PharmaCare.

This transition is occurring throughout the fall, as First Nations members are identified and coverage is added to their records.

FNHA states that there will be no changes to prescription drug benefits for the vast majority of FNHA clients. Only a small number of FNHA clients will require a review of their therapy with their doctor.

To access benefits under BC PharmaCare, First Nations clients will show their status card or BC Services Card ("CareCard"). At the pharmacy, claims will automatically adjudicate with BC PharmaCare, as the primary payer. If BC PharmaCare does not cover the expense, the pharmacist will submit the claim to the plan member's benefit program. If the claim is eligible, adjudication will follow based on plan specifications.

Any special authorizations from NIHB and insurers (such as Sun Life) will be grandfathered until the individual can move to an on-formulary drug or another eligible drug on BC PharmaCare's special authorizations list.

FNHA has published information for their clients (including a list of pharmacies not enrolled with BC PharmaCare) online at <http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/pharmacare-transition>.

No action is required.

Questions?

For more information, please contact your Sun Life Financial group benefits representative.