

August 16, 2007

E6590-0

All Holders of the Social Development
Policy and Procedures Manual
British Columbia Region

To: All holders of the Social Development Policy & Procedures Manual

Manual Amendment Letter No # **04** 2007/2008

Re: **1. Health Benefits Chapter**
2. New Health Benefits Request & Authorization (SA 205) form
3. OAS/GIS/SS Rates
4. Diet Allowance
5. Infant Formula Allowance
6. Housekeeping

This manual amendment introduces changes to the Social Development Policy and Procedures Manual, BC Region, effective August 1, 2007.

1. Health Benefits (Chapter 10)

Due to various changes over the past few years to the Provincial Ministry of Health programs, income assistance recipients no longer fit into two categories of eligibility for health benefits. Therefore, the terms "basic" and "enhanced" are no longer relevant. Instead, eligibility for health benefits is determined for each non-status individual recipient in the family unit.

Changes to this chapter are as following:

- Title for Chapter 10 "Health Benefits" has been changed to "Non-Status Health Benefits" as this chapter is for non-status recipients only;

- Section 10.1 has been re-titled “Medical Services Plan and PharmaCare” and provides general information on, eligibility criteria and application processes for these health benefits;
- Section 10.2 section has been re-titled “Health Benefits” and lists specific health benefit categories for recipients who are eligible health benefit coverage;
- A new Health Benefits Request & Authorization (SA 205) form procedures has been added to sections 10.3 “Dental”, 10.4 “Orthodontia”, 10.7 “Medical Equipment”, 10.8 “Medical Supplies”, 10.9 “Eligible Items”, and 10.10 “non-Eligible Items;”
- New policy, procedures and rates for optical services have been introduced to Section 10.5;
- New rate and the new Health Benefits Request & Authorization (SA 205) form procedures have been introduced to Section 10.6 “Health-Related Travel”;
- Content in Section 10.11 “Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement Compensations and Exemptions” has been moved to Section 4.9 “Earned Income and Exemption Eligibility.”

2. New Health Benefits Request & Authorization (SA 205) form (Appendix 7)

As a result of the changes to Chapter 10, a new “Health Benefits Request & Authorization (SA 205)” form replaces the Non-Status Health Benefits, the “Request for Non-Insured Health Benefits (SA 200)” and “Authorization for Non-Insured Health Benefits (SA 201)” forms. Usage of SA 200 and SA 201 are to be discontinued.

3. OAS/GIS/SS Rates (Chapter 11.3)

The Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) AND Senior Supplement (SS) rates are updated.

4. Diet Allowance (Chapter 11.10)

- 9.4 “Diet Allowance” has been moved under Chapter 11, Other Benefits;
- References to Infant formula allowance have been removed from this section;
- Policy clarification on the duration that a diet allowance may be provided for recipients with acute or chronic medication conditions has been introduced;
- The allowance rate for a person who has diabetes has been increased to \$35 per month;
- Medical conditions under which a high protein diet allowance may be provided have been specified;
- Diet allowance is to be charged to the “Basic Needs” instead of the “Special Needs;” budget;

5. Infant Formula Allowance (Chapter 11.11)

A new section has been introduced on the Infant Formula Allowance.

6. Housekeeping

In addition, policy and procedure clarification and updates have been provided to the following sections:

- Table of Contents
- Appendix 7, Income Assistance Forms List
- Section 9.3, Natal Allowance has been moved under “Other Benefits” as Section 11.9, with added procedural clarification.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPDATING THE MANUAL:

All changes are **highlighted**. Please remove the following chapters and sections and replace them with the corresponding sections and chapters that are included in this package into Volume 1 of 2, Income Assistance Program manual:

Please remove the Table of Contents (pages 1 to 6) and replace it with the attached Table of Contents (pages 1 to 6) dated August 2007.

Please remove all of Chapter 10, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and replace them with the attached Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 dated August 2007.

Please remove Chapter 9, Section 3 and 4, and replace them with the attached Chapter 11, Sections 9, 10 and 11 dated August 2007.

Please remove Appendix 7 (pages 1 to 2) and replace with the attached Appendix 7 (pages 1 to 2) dated August 2007.

Please remove the "Request for Non-Insured Health Benefits (SA 200)" and "Authorization for Non-Insured Health Benefits (SA 201)" forms after page 2 of Appendix 7.

Please insert a sample of the new "Health Benefits Request & Authorization (SA 205)" form and the PWD Request for Application (SA 331) form.

Should you have any questions or require clarification on this policy amendment, please contact Gwen John, Communications Officer, Resource Centre, First Nations Social Development Society (FNSDS), at 1-800-991-7099.

Yours truly,

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Attach.

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