



**NON-INSURED
HEALTH BENEFITS
NATIONAL DIRECTIVES
REVIEW PROCESS
- NEXT STEPS -**

Updated September 2001



Background

Since 1998, the Joint First Nation/Inuit NIHB Mandate Renewal Technical Working Group, comprised of technical representatives from First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (formerly Medical Services Branch) and the Assembly of First Nations, have taken on the task of reviewing the National NIHB Program Directives.



Purpose of Review

- To respond to the Joint Task Force recommendations.
- To build from the Cabinet Approved Mandate statement.
- To address issues raised in the Auditor General's report.
- To reflect a new way of doing business, i.e. partnership (RCAP)
- To establish national standards for FNIHB and NIHB Projects.
- Take into consideration issues raised in Regional Health Surveys.
- The existing directives were out of date.
- To propose a revised set of National Directives for NIHB
- To recognize variations in provincial programming, and Regional responses.



General Outstanding Issues

- The interpretation of the NIHB policies across Canada are not consistent:
- The differences of fee schedules, Regionally, and Nationally.
- Cost pressures associated with any additions to the program.
- The establishment of Minimum Standards that are consistent across Canada.
- Cost pressures associated with minimum standards and flexibility.
- Definition of management procedures need to be clear.
- MS&E has always been under Drugs, but is currently being revised and will be its own directive.



Participants

The Directives sub-working groups reported to the Joint First Nation/Inuit NIHB Mandate Renewal Technical Working Group (JTWG). The purpose of the JTWG was:

- To begin joint technical discussions on many issues of the NIHB Program
- Be a major catalyst in advancing NIHB issues at both the National and Regional levels



THE JTWG REPORTS TO THE AFN/FNIHB NATIONAL JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE

First Nation/Inuit NIHB Mandate
Renewal Technical Working Group

Directives Review Sub-
Working Group

Evaluation Co-ordination Sub-
Working Sub-Working Group

Medical Transportation
Review Sub-Working
Group

Pilot Project Handbook Sub-
Working Group

NIHBMH Review Sub-
Working Group



First Nations/Inuit Outstanding Issues

1. Cost/impact analysis is being done on:

- Rates for meals/travel same as Treasury Board rates**
- Work-related safety glasses**
- Compassionate (family & patient support) travel**

2. Allied Health Services unresolved eg: issue of diabetes/podiatry.

3. Perceptions surrounding additions and deletions of brand name drugs.



First Nations/Inuit Outstanding Issues Cont'd

First Nations/Inuit believe that:

- **The Health Minister needs to recognize the importance of resolving treaty and “fiduciary” obligations.**



PROPOSED STRATEGY

Information Sharing Sessions

It is proposed that information sessions be held in each of the regions with health leadership. These sessions will:

- be coordinated by First Nations and Inuit organizations in partnership with regions and JTWG representatives
- will be coordinated by AFN/FNIHB Headquarters in regions where there are no JTWG reps



PROPOSED STRATEGY

Information Sharing Sessions

It is recommended that the sessions will focus on areas of:

- the proposed draft NIHB National Directive;
- feedback on the NIHB program including: community priorities; gaps and concerns; program administration; building capacity; cost drivers and pressures; and how NIHB can address issues of prevention



PROPOSED STRATEGY

Communications Support

In preparation for these sessions, the following items are currently being developed:

- NIHB Newsletter
- Presenter's Kit
- Participant's Kit



PROPOSED STRATEGY

National Roll-Up of Feedback

- It is proposed that a National Recorder be hired to record the feedback at all sessions and prepare a national roll-up document.



PROPOSED STRATEGY

Final Report

The Joint Technical Working Group will prepare a final report that will be presented to the NJSC, BEC, CCOH and ITC. This report will identify the following:

- the Working Group activities over the last three years;
- the number of issues that it could address out of the original JTF recommendations;
- the proposed NIHB National Directive and changes;



PROPOSED STRATEGY

Final Report Cont'd

- a cost impact analysis paper;
- recommendations for implementation of the Directive changes; and
- a strategy for First Nations and Inuit involvement in the future management of the NIHB Program



Proposed Target Audience

The target audiences for all NIHB communications and information sharing/feedback process would include:

- First Nations and Inuit health directors;
- First Nations and Inuit who sit on health committees;
- First Nations and Inuit community health representatives;
- First Nations and Inuit welfare/social administrators; and
- Health Canada FNIHB, regional and territorial offices, and staff



Proposed Information Sharing Sessions Work Plan

- Each region will receive a budget allocation.
- AFN and First Nations and Inuit organizations will develop plans for regional information sharing sessions.
- AFN and ITC in partnership with FNIHB will confirm the scheduling of regional information sharing sessions.
- NIHB Information Kits will be prepared for Presenter's and Participant's of the sessions for all regions to administer. Individuals can attend information sharing sessions or mail back comments.
- Each information sharing session will be lead by First Nations and Inuit organizations in partnership with regions and JTWG representatives.



Proposed Timeframes

October 2001

Present to NJSC, BEC and CCOH the Draft Directives, report on Outstanding Issues and Recommendations, Cost Projections and Analysis, as well as the Work Plan

October 2001

Send NIHB Newsletter/Presenter's and Participants Kits to First Nations and Inuit communities and FNIHB regional offices



Proposed Timeframes (Cont'd)

November 2001 - Information Sharing Sessions
February 2002

April 2002
Presentation of findings to JTWG,
NJSC, ITC, BEC and CCOH
respectively