

**From:** [Armitage, Mark W HLTH:EX](#)  
**To:** [Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services HLTH:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Marsh, Jania HLTH:EX](#); [Anderson, Karen HLTH:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: \*\*For ADM Approval\*\* 42820 - DBN -COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 11:57:52 AM

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Thanks Araya. DBN reviewed and recommended option supported.

W. Mark A. Armitage MPA BSW

ADM | Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services

Ministry of Health | 1515 Blanshard St., Victoria, B.C.

Phone (250) 952-3519

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**From:** Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services HLTH:EX <s.15>  
**Sent:** September 13, 2021 9:32 AM  
**To:** Armitage, Mark W HLTH:EX <Mark.Armitage@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services HLTH:EX <s.15>; Marsh, Jania HLTH:EX <Jania.Marsh@gov.bc.ca>; Anderson, Karen HLTH:EX <Karen.1.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** \*\*For ADM Approval\*\* 42820 - DBN -COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment  
**Importance:** High

Hi Mark,

Decision note re: COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment for your review/approval prior to going to Deputy Ministry for final decision. Completed by BDS and approved by Stephanie Power.

Thank you!

**Araya Suebsee**

Documents Coordinator

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division

PO Box 9649, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9P4

**Warning:** This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

**From:** [Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services HLTH:EX](#)  
**To:** [Armitage, Mark W HLTH:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services HLTH:EX](#); [Marsh, Jania HLTH:EX](#); [Anderson, Karen HLTH:EX](#)  
**Subject:** \*\*For ADM Approval\*\* 42820 - DBN -COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 9:32:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [1207157 - HPO.pdf](#)  
[1207157 DBN Extension MSP Covid19 Policy for Ineligible Aug 2021.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Hi Mark,

Decision note re: COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment for your review/approval prior to going to Deputy Ministry for final decision. Completed by BDS and approved by Stephanie Power.

Thank you!

**Araya Suebsee**

Documents Coordinator

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division

PO Box 9649, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9P4

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# ID: 42820, Title: DBN -COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment

**Approval Route:** BDS>Kate>Stephanie>Mark Armitage HSWBS ADM>Stephen Brown DM

**Assigned To:** Armitage, Mark W **Rush:** No **Category:** Briefing Note - Decision Note **Signature:** Health - Deputy Minister

**Branch:** Beneficiary and Diagnostic Services **Other Number:** 1207157 **Link:**

**Due Date:** 9/15/2021 **Date Completed:** N/A **Date Initiated:** 8/31/2021

Title	Comments	Date
Suebsee, Araya HLTH:EX [Colleague of HSWBS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Armitage, Mark W for action	Hi Mark, decision note for your review/approval re: COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment. Completed by BDS and approved by Stephanie. Thank you!	9/13/2021, 9:19:52 AM
McIlveen, Elaine K [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to HSWBS Generic for action	Hi Araya for Mark's review and approval then on to the DM for approval and signature please. Thanks Elaine	9/10/2021, 1:48:41 PM
Power, Stephanie A [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to McIlveen, Elaine K for action	No Comment	9/10/2021, 1:28:36 PM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Power, Stephanie A for action	No Comment	9/3/2021, 9:47:40 AM
Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action	Very minor changes and formatting for your review.	9/2/2021, 9:05:02 PM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX for action	please take a quick look before i send on - thank you!	9/2/2021, 11:23:40 AM
Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action		9/1/2021, 10:02:55 AM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX for action	Do you and Haley want to review this? Thank you	8/31/2021, 4:45:01 PM
Mgodi, Rudo HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action		8/31/2021, 3:25:33 PM
Mgodi, Rudo HLTH:EX added a document: 1207157 DBN Extension MSP Covid19 Policy for Ineligible Aug 2021.docx		8/31/2021, 3:22:39 PM
Mgodi, Rudo HLTH:EX created this item	Hi Kate. For your review and next steps. Thanks	8/31/2021, 3:22:39 PM

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

**Cliff #1207157**

**PREPARED FOR:** Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister - **FOR DECISION**

**TITLE:** COVID-19 Coverage for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment

**PURPOSE:** To recommend changes to the temporary MSP policy for those who are ineligible for MSP enrolment but require treatment related to COVID-19.

**BACKGROUND:**

A person must be a resident of British Columbia, as defined by the *Medicare Protection Act*, in order to qualify for MSP benefits, which include laboratory services described in the *Laboratory Services Act*. Eligible persons generally include Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada and may include other individuals who are deemed to be residents under the Medical and Health Care Services Regulation. Deemed residents can include most holders of Study and Work Permits if the Permits are issued for a period of six or more months.

In response to COVID-19, the Medical Services Commission made a number of exceptions with respect to MSP coverage requirements, including provincially insured health care coverage for COVID-19 treatment for individuals not eligible for enrolment in MSP. This coverage was time-limited and set for re-evaluation on July 31, 2020. Upon evaluation, it was determined that an extension was required, and the policy was extended to January 31, 2021, and again until April 30, 2021. Most recently, the policy was extended until October 31, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

In March 2020, a separate condition-based pathway was developed for individuals not eligible for MSP enrolment with COVID-19 symptoms, as determined by the attending provider. To facilitate coverage, on the direction of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), HIBC established a generic personal health number (PHN) to allow physicians and other health care practitioners (with an MSP payee number) to bill for COVID-19 related services (e.g. laboratory testing, treatment) for individuals not eligible for MSP enrolment.

Aligning with the generic PHN for physician services, the Hospital Services Branch, Health Services Division, advised health authorities of a temporary change in policy that ensured that individuals in BC not eligible for MSP will not be charged for any medically necessary COVID-19-related hospital services and goods (e.g. supplies, facility fees). This temporary policy amendment relates to all acute care hospitals in the province and will remain in effect while the MSP temporary policy regarding coverage of COVID-19 treatment is in effect.

BC's Restart is at step 3, moving to step 4 once certain criteria is met. It was anticipated that the earliest move to step 4 would be September 7, 2021. However, current case counts have demonstrated a need to delay the date. Based on the stage of BC's Restart, as well as utilization rates, it has been recommended that the other temporary COVID-19 MSP policies for those on Implied Status and for those who are unwilling or unable to attend the Insurance Corporation of BC to complete enrolment or renew enrolment expire as of October 31, 2021.

1 of 2

A decision is required if the temporary COVID-19 policy for individuals present in BC but who are ineligible for MSP enrolment should expire or continue for specific services.

s.13

s.13; s.17

s.13

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Approved/Not Approved  
Stephen Brown  
Deputy Minister

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Date Signed

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**Program ADM/Division:** Mark Armitage/HSWBS  
**Telephone:** (250) 952-3519  
**Program Contact (for content):** Stephanie Power  
**Drafter:** Kate Puckett  
**Date:** August 31, 2021

**From:** [Murray, Heather HLTH:EX](#)  
**To:** [Armitage, Mark W HLTH:EX](#); [Marsh, Jania HLTH:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX](#); [McIlveen, Elaine K HLTH:EX](#)  
**Subject:** 1207157 - DBN re: COVID-19 Coverage for Individuals Ineligible for MSP Enrolment (Approved)  
**Date:** October 15, 2021 10:59:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [1207157 DBN COVID 19 Coverage Ineligible for MSP Enrolment Apprvd.pdf](#)

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Good Morning,

Please find attached a DM-approved DBN regarding COVID-19 Coverage for Individuals Ineligible for MSP Enrolment.

As noted on the eApp history attached, the DM has indicated 'Approved to align with MSC and context of Wave 4'. A copy is also being returned via eApps.

Thank you, Heather

**Heather Murray** | A/Senior Manager

Office of the Associate Deputy Ministers

Ministry of Health

P: 250-952-2879

C: s.17

email: [heather.murray@gov.bc.ca](mailto:heather.murray@gov.bc.ca)

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

**Cliff #1207157**

**PREPARED FOR:** Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister - **FOR DECISION**

**TITLE:** COVID-19 Coverage for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan Enrolment

**PURPOSE:** To recommend changes to the temporary Medical Services Plan (MSP) policy for those who are ineligible for MSP enrolment but require treatment related to COVID-19.

**BACKGROUND:**

A person must be a resident of British Columbia, as defined by the *Medicare Protection Act*, in order to qualify for MSP benefits, which include laboratory services described in the *Laboratory Services Act*. Eligible persons generally include Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada and may include other individuals who are deemed to be residents under the Medical and Health Care Services Regulation. Deemed residents can include most holders of study and work permits if the permits are issued for a period of six or more months.

In response to COVID-19, the Medical Services Commission made a number of exceptions with respect to MSP coverage requirements, including provincially insured health care coverage for COVID-19 treatment for individuals not eligible for enrolment in MSP. This coverage was time-limited and set for re-evaluation on July 31, 2020. Upon evaluation, it was determined that an extension was required, and the policy was extended to January 31, 2021, and again until April 30, 2021. Most recently, the policy was extended until October 31, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

In March 2020, a separate condition-based pathway was developed for individuals not eligible for MSP enrolment with COVID-19 symptoms, as determined by the attending provider. To facilitate coverage, on the direction of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), HIBC established a generic personal health number (PHN) to allow physicians and other health care practitioners (with an MSP payee number) to bill for COVID-19 related services (e.g. laboratory testing, treatment) for individuals not eligible for MSP enrolment.

Aligning with the generic PHN for physician services, the Hospital Services Branch, Health Services Division, advised health authorities of a temporary change in policy that ensured that individuals in BC not eligible for MSP will not be charged for any medically necessary COVID-19-related hospital services and goods (e.g. supplies, facility fees). This temporary policy amendment relates to all acute care hospitals in the province and will remain in effect while the MSP temporary policy regarding coverage of COVID-19 treatment is in effect.

BC was to move to step 4 of BC's Restart plan on September 7, 2021, but rising case counts warranted a need to delay the move. Based on the stage of BC's Restart, as well as utilization rates, it has been recommended that the other temporary COVID-19 MSP policies for those on Implied Status and for those who are unwilling or unable to attend the Insurance Corporation of BC offices to complete enrolment or renew enrolment expire as of October 31, 2021. A decision is required if the temporary COVID-19 coverage for individuals who are ineligible for MSP enrolment should expire or continue for specific services.

**OPTIONS:**

s.13


**Option 2:** Extend the MSP COVID-19 policy to April 30, 2022, (six-month extension) and limit coverage to the laboratory test.

s.13

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

s.13; s.17

**RECOMMENDATION: Option 2:** Extend the MSP COVID-19 policy to April 30, 2022, (six-month extension) and limit coverage to the laboratory test.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved/Not Approved  
Stephen Brown  
Deputy Minister

October 15, 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program ADM/Division: Mark Armitage/HSWBS  
Telephone: (250) 952-3519  
Program Contact (for content): Stéphanie Power  
Drafter: Kate Puckett  
Date: September 28, 2021



## ID: 42820, Title: DBN -COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligib<sup>s.13</sup> Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment

**Approval Route:** BDS>Kate>Stephanie>Mark Armitage HSWBS ADM>Stephen Brown DM> HSWBS

**Assigned To:** Murray, Heather **Rush:** No **Category:** Briefing Note - Decision **Signature:** Health - Deputy Minister

**Branch:** Beneficiary and Diagnostic Services **Other Number:** 1207157 **Link:**

**Due Date:** 2021-09-15 **Date Completed:** N/A **Date Initiated:** 2021-08-31

Title	Comments	Date
Sheppard, Jenifer A HLTH:EX [Colleague of Murray, Heather] added a comment	Printed for review, with AA	2021-09-29 9:33:02 AM
Simonson, Kathy HLTH:EX [Colleague of Corporate Operations - Documents] forwarded an eApprovals item to Murray, Heather for action	FCS review/approval obtained; over to you for next steps	2021-09-28 4:24:32 PM
Plante, Veronique HLTH:EX [Colleague of FCS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Corporate Operations - Documents for action	To COU for next steps, please.	2021-09-28 4:15:24 PM
Plante, Veronique HLTH:EX [Colleague of FCS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Twyford, Philip HLTH:EX for action	For your review and approval, please.	2021-09-28 9:18:10 AM
Cross, Gordon HLTH:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to FCS Generic for action	for Philip's review and approval	2021-09-27 6:38:41 PM
Comolli, Sylvia HLTH:EX [Colleague of Perry, Nancy L HLTH:EX] forwarded an eApprovals item to Cross, Gordon HLTH:EX for action	To Gordon Cross for review and approval.	2021-09-21 8:48:27 AM
Plante, Veronique HLTH:EX [Colleague of FCS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Perry, Nancy L HLTH:EX for action	To RGDS for review as per comments, please.	2021-09-20 4:12:04 PM
Simonson, Kathy HLTH:EX [Colleague of Corporate Operations - Documents] forwarded an eApprovals item to FCS Generic for action	Please confirm if financial review is required.	2021-09-20 3:39:13 PM
McIlveen, Elaine K [Colleague of HSWBS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Corporate Operations - Documents for action	Hi for DM review approval and signature please. Thanks Elaine	2021-09-20 3:23:02 PM
McIlveen, Elaine K [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Armitage, Mark W for action	Hi Mark for your review and approval of edits made by PLBSD before sending on to DM for signature. Thanks Elaine	2021-09-20 2:19:11 PM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to McIlveen, Elaine K for action	for ADM/DM approval - thank you	2021-09-20 11:59:34 AM
Gallant, Roxanne HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action	Approved by Mariana Diacu, returning to Kate Puckett.	2021-09-17 2:03:32 PM
Watt, Rebecca HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Gallant, Roxanne HLTH:EX for action	As per email exchange with Mariana, please forward DBN to ADMO for Mitch's review prior to return to BDS. Thank you.	2021-09-17 11:09:03 AM

Title	Comments	Date
Gallant, Roxanne HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Watt, Rebecca HLTH:EX for action	Returned to Rebecca Watt to revise highlighted section if possible.	2021-09-17 7:36:50 AM
Watt, Rebecca HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Gallant, Roxanne HLTH:EX for action	Please forward to Mariana for ED review, and then to Mitch for ADM review. Return to BDS.	2021-09-16 5:04:20 PM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Watt, Rebecca HLTH:EX for action	Hi Rebecca - For your review. Please forward for approvals and send back to go to the DM. Thank you	2021-09-13 4:38:34 PM
Suebsee, Araya HLTH:EX [Colleague of HSWBS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action	Hi Kate, pulling from DBN back and returning to you for action as requested. Thank you!	2021-09-13 4:28:04 PM
Staples, Zoe HLTH:EX [Colleague of Corporate Operations - Documents] forwarded an eApprovals item to HSWBS Generic for action	As requested, thanks!	2021-09-13 4:25:55 PM
Suebsee, Araya HLTH:EX [Colleague of Armitage, Mark W] forwarded an eApprovals item to Corporate Operations - Documents for action	Hello Corp Ops, please forward along to DMO for the Deputy's review and decision. Prepared by Beneficiary and Diagnostics Services and approved by ADM Armitage. Thank you!	2021-09-13 12:21:16 PM
Suebsee, Araya HLTH:EX added a document: 1207157 DBN Extension MSP Covid19 Policy for Ineligible Aug 2021.docx		2021-09-13 12:18:28 PM
s.13		
Suebsee, Araya HLTH:EX added a document: ADM Approved 42820 - DBN -COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for MSP Enrolment.msg		2021-09-13 12:10:48 PM
Suebsee, Araya HLTH:EX [Colleague of HSWBS Generic ] forwarded an eApprovals item to Armitage, Mark W for action	Hi Mark, decision note for your review/approval re: COVID-19 Policy for Individuals Ineligible for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment. Completed by BDS and approved by Stephanie. Thank you!	2021-09-13 9:19:52 AM
McIlveen, Elaine K [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to HSWBS Generic for action	Hi Araya for Mark's review and approval then on to the DM for approval and signature please. Thanks Elaine	2021-09-10 1:48:41 PM
Power, Stephanie A [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to McIlveen, Elaine K for action	No Comment	2021-09-10 1:28:36 PM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Power, Stephanie A for action	No Comment	2021-09-03 9:47:40 AM
Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action	Very minor changes and formatting for your review.	2021-09-02 9:05:02 PM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX for action	please take a quick look before i send on - thank you!	2021-09-02 11:23:40 AM
Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action		2021-09-01 10:02:55 AM
Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Bossy, Bronwen HLTH:EX for action	Do you and Haley want to review this? Thank you	2021-08-31 4:45:01 PM
		2021-08-31 3:25:33 PM

Title	Comments	Date
Mgodi, Rudo HLTH:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Puckett, Kate HLTH:EX for action		
Mgodi, Rudo HLTH:EX added a document: 1207157 DBN Extension MSP Covid19 Policy for Ineligible Aug 2021.docx		2021-08-31 3:22:39 PM
Mgodi, Rudo HLTH:EX created this item	Hi Kate. For your review and next steps. Thanks	2021-08-31 3:22:39 PM

## Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX

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**From:** Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** October 7, 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** HLTH Corporate Operations HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MSP Implied Status  
**Attachments:** 1207264 DBN COVID 19 Policy for Implied Status Holders (Sept 2021).pdf

FYI

**From:** Andrachuk, Andrea HLTH:EX <Andrea.Andrachuk@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 6, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** Ho, Theresa HLTH:EX <Theresa.Ho@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Pham, Thuy HLTH:EX <Thuy.Pham@gov.bc.ca>; Copeland, Alison HLTH:EX <Alison.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>; Sheppard, Jenifer A HLTH:EX <Jenifer.Sheppard@gov.bc.ca>; Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>; Murray, Heather HLTH:EX <Heather.Murray@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** MSP Implied Status

Hi Theresa,

The program area has provided the attached from the Medical Services Commission regarding MSP Implied Status.

Many thanks,

**Andrea Andrachuk** | Manager, Executive Program Operations  
Office of the Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

P: 778-698-8391

C: 617

email: [andrea.andrachuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:andrea.andrachuk@gov.bc.ca)

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

Cliff # 1207264

**PREPARED FOR:** Dr. Robert Halpenny, Chair, Medical Services Commission  
**- FOR DECISION**

**TITLE:** COVID-19 Coverage for Individuals in British Columbia with Implied Status<sup>1</sup>

**PURPOSE:** To propose options for Medical Services Plan (MSP) temporary COVID-19 coverage for individuals in BC with Implied Status beyond October 31, 2021.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), a temporary resident must apply to extend their period of authorized stay before it expires. If they have done so, their period of authorized stay as a temporary resident is extended by law until a decision is made. Such a person is considered to have legal status in Canada as a Implied Status holder during this time but will not have a valid permit.

Normally, work or study permit holders are only deemed eligible for enrolment in MSP until the expiry date of their permit. If the individual receives a subsequent work or study permit that states 'maintained' they may be eligible for retroactive continuous MSP.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Medical Services Commission (MSC) made a number of exceptions with respect to MSP coverage requirements, including providing temporary coverage for those who are in BC on an expired work or study permit until July 31, 2020. The MSC approved several extensions to this policy, most recently until October 31, 2021. With the most recent extension, the COVID 19 policy for Implied Status was updated to include only eligible individuals with permits that expired on or before December 1, 2020 (updated from December 1, 2019). This change recognized IRCC's return to pre-pandemic estimated processing times and limited the risk of coverage being provided to non-eligible individuals who may have had their subsequent permit application denied by IRCC.

**DISCUSSION:**

For the reporting period May 1, 2021 to August 29, 2021, Health Insurance BC (HIBC) reported a total of 991 individuals who were provided temporary coverage under the updated policy, averaging approximately 330 a month. Although relatively stable, this demonstrates a decrease from the 6,857 instances of temporary coverage provided to Implied Status holders prior to May 1, 2021, averaging approximately 489 per month.

The processing times for IRCC have decreased significantly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of September 2, 2021, the processing time for a study permit extension was 37 days, while work permit extensions were longer at 84 days<sup>2</sup>. As IRCC is currently processing work and study extension within 84 days and given that temporary permit holders are instructed to apply for a new permit with sufficient time to obtain a

<sup>1</sup> IRCC terminology was recently updated from "Implied Status" to "Maintained Status". However, as the policy was developed using the older, outdated terminology, this BN has retained the language to avoid confusion.

<sup>2</sup> Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Check Processing Times. [www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html)

permit before the expiration of their original permit, its is reasonable to return to normal MSP operational policy.

Should the policy be extended, the risk remains that temporary coverage for Implied Status holders may be provided to those who have already received a denial from IRCC.

A final item of consideration is the Province's status in returning to normal conditions. BC's Restart is at step 3, moving to step 4 once certain criteria is met. It was anticipated that the earliest move to step 4 would be September 7, 2021. However, current case counts have demonstrated a need to delay the date.

Based on the stage of BC's Restart, as well as processing times and utilization rates, a decision required regarding the COVID-19 policy for Implied Status holders and if it should be extended or if the temporary policy should expire on October 31, 2021.

#### **OPTIONS:**

s.13

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1



September 16, 2021

**Approved/Not Approved**

**Date Signed**

Dr. Robert Halpenny

Chair, Medical Services Commission

Program ADM/Division: Mark Armitage/Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division

Telephone: 250 952-2156

Program Contact (for content): Kate Puckett

Drafter: Dawn Macleod

Date: September 2, 2021

File Name with Path: