

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: June 27, 2019

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister

ISSUE: Ministry of Health (MOH) amendments to ensure clients are not impacted by the elimination of Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums (OICs scheduled for July 15, 2019 Cabinet Meeting)

BACKGROUND:

With the elimination of MSP premiums on January 1, 2020, various regulations need to be amended to ensure continuity of client services.

These include the *Employment and Assistance Regulation* and the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation* (the EA and EAPWD Regulations), which refer to premium assistance in the eligibility criteria for three program areas.

MOH has worked with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) and the Ministry of Finance to coordinate the amendments. The changes ensure that clients will not be negatively impacted by the removal of MSP premiums.

As a matter of convenience, it has been agreed that all required amendments proceed by means of one Order in Council (OIC) taken forward by the Minister of Health.

Cabinet is expected to review the OIC on July 15, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

The EA and EAPWD Regulations currently point to eligibility for premium assistance as a means test in relation to three programs:

- Healthy Kids, which provides dental, optical and hearing benefits for children;
- Medical Services Only, which provides continued access to specific health supplements for certain categories of former income and disability assistance recipients; and
- Life Threatening Health Need, which provides access to specific health supplements for individuals facing a direct and imminent life threatening need.

MOH has identified another program, called supplemental services, that will be subject to the same income threshold and verification mechanism as premium assistance. As a

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result, SDPR can use eligibility for supplemental services as a replacement for premium assistance without affecting who will qualify.

The OIC therefore amends the EA and EAPWD Regulations to replace existing references to premium assistance with references to supplemental services under the Medical and Health Care Services Regulation. Doing so will have no practical impact on clients, whose coverage will not be interrupted or changed due to the amendments.

The amendments will take effect on January 1, 2020 to coincide with the elimination of MSP premiums under the *Medicare Protection Act*.



CONCLUSION:

MOH is advancing an OIC that includes amendments to ensure continuity of services for SDPR clients when MSP premiums are eliminated. SDPR should support the OIC to ensure clients are not negatively impacted by the elimination of MSP premiums.

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Reviewing path: Cary Chiu, Executive Director / Molly Harrington,
Assistant Deputy Minister / David Galbraith, Deputy Minister

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9542

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Date Completed	ID	Cliff Number	Other Number	Subject
8/2/2019	9542	200210		Information Note: Regulation changes consequential to the elimination of MSP premiums

Approvals

Date Approved	User	Title
6/28/2019 2:37 PM	MacMillan, Karen SDPR:EX	Item Approved.
6/27/2019 4:08 PM	Dube, Jonathan SDPR:EX	Item Approved.
6/27/2019 4:05 PM	MacMillan, Karen SDPR:EX	Item Approved.
6/27/2019 3:55 PM	Harrington, Molly SDPR:EX	Item Approved.
6/27/2019 11:41 AM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Item Approved.
6/26/2019 4:37 PM	Chiu, Cary SDPR:EX	Item Approved.
6/26/2019 1:17 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Item Approved.

Comments

Comment Date	User	Title
7/22/2019 10:07 AM	Fidler, Hollie SDPR:EX	To Tricia Daykin for necessary action as per the ADMO. Hollie Fidler
7/22/2019 10:01 AM	Moccia, Margaret SDPR:EX	Approved by A/DM and sent to Minister's Office. Returned to branch to download approved documents and close log.
7/8/2019 9:29 AM	Nelson, Brianna SDPR:EX	Please ignore notice - item is being refreshed
6/28/2019 4:00 PM	Neate, Sara SDPR:EX	approved by A/DM and sent to MO, back to division.
6/28/2019 2:37 PM	MacMillan, Karen SDPR:EX	Jonathan has signed off. Please send to MO as info for the Minister. thanks
6/27/2019 4:08 PM	Dube, Jonathan SDPR:EX	Good with this. One typo noted. Thanks for sharing.
6/27/2019 4:05 PM	MacMillan, Karen SDPR:EX	Thought you should see this one before it goes forward to the MO
6/27/2019 3:55 PM	Harrington, Molly SDPR:EX	Note giving MSS a heads up about July 15 OICs ensuring our clients are not impacted by elimination of MSP and Premium Assistance - good to support
6/27/2019 3:53 PM	Chiu, Cary SDPR:EX	Over to you, Molly.
6/27/2019 11:41 AM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Updated based on discussion with Molly.
6/26/2019 4:37 PM	Chiu, Cary SDPR:EX	Approved. To Molly for approval.
6/26/2019 1:17 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Cary: Here is the BN further to our discussion last week. Thanks!

Path

Path Date	User	Title
8/2/2019 6:09 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Item completed with the reason Completed.
7/22/2019 10:07 AM	Fidler, Hollie SDPR:EX	Item sent to Daykin, Tricia.
7/22/2019 10:01 AM	Moccia, Margaret SDPR:EX	Item sent to Fidler, Hollie.
7/8/2019 9:29 AM	Nelson, Brianna SDPR:EX	Item sent to Moccia, Margaret.
6/28/2019 4:00 PM	Neate, Sara SDPR:EX	Item sent to Moccia, Margaret.
6/28/2019 2:37 PM	MacMillan, Karen SDPR:EX	Item sent to Neate, Sara.
6/27/2019 4:08 PM	Dube, Jonathan SDPR:EX	Item sent to MacMillan, Karen.
6/27/2019 4:05 PM	MacMillan, Karen SDPR:EX	Item sent to Dube, Jonathan.
6/27/2019 3:55 PM	Harrington, Molly SDPR:EX	Item sent to MacMillan, Karen.
6/27/2019 3:53 PM	Chiu, Cary SDPR:EX	Item sent to Harrington, Molly.
6/27/2019 11:41 AM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Item sent to Chiu, Cary.
6/27/2019 9:58 AM	Tannas, Darren SDPR:EX	Item sent to Daykin, Tricia.
6/26/2019 4:37 PM	Chiu, Cary SDPR:EX	Item sent to Tannas, Darren.
6/26/2019 1:17 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Item sent to Chiu, Cary.
6/18/2019 2:43 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Item Created.

DocumentPath

Upload Date	User	Title
6/26/2019 12:53 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Document [200210 Encl. Section Notes Regulation changes consequential to the elimination of MSP premiums] Uploaded.
6/26/2019 12:42 PM	Daykin, Tricia SDPR:EX	Document [200210 BN re MSP premium consequentials] Uploaded.



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