



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

**AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY  
ABOUT A CHANGE IN DRUG BENEFITS FOR FNHA CLIENTS**

**On October 1, 2017, the FNHA will join BC PharmaCare.**

The aim is to bring drug benefits decisions closer to home in British Columbia, and increase ease of access to your benefits and services.

You might be asking, what will this mean for me? For most clients things will be the same at the pharmacy counter. For very few clients, there could be a change related to specific drugs. To find out if there is a change to your medication, please visit our website at [www.fnha.ca](http://www.fnha.ca). If you have additional questions about your prescriptions talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

As always bring your BC Services Card and Status Card to the pharmacy to access your drug benefits.

If you are travelling out-of-province, please plan ahead and fill your prescriptions here in British Columbia before you leave. PharmaCare is a BC program, and cannot pay for your prescriptions in other provinces. In most cases, you may be eligible to receive in advance a supply lasting up to 100 days. Speak directly with your pharmacist to find out more.

Your FNHA is working to ensure that there is no disruption to service. Further updates will be provide closer to the transition. Should you have any questions about your coverage, we want to hear from you. Call our toll free Health Benefits Support line at 1.855.550.5454 or email us at [HealthBenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:HealthBenefits@fnha.ca).

In wellness,

Richard Jock  
*Chief Operating Officer*  
First Nations Health Authority



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## ***HELP US REACH COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH THIS NEWS ARTICLE***

### **BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER 1, 2017 PLEASE FEEL FREE TO:**

- SUBMIT THIS ARTICLE TO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS FOR PUBLICATION
- INSERT THIS COPY IN NEWSLETTERS, E-BLASTS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS
- PRINT AND POST IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **Some drug coverage changes are coming for First Nations in B.C.**

#### **BC PharmaCare program welcomes First Nations**

First Nations in British Columbia are about to become the first in Canada to join a provincially-based prescription drug program.

Starting October 1 of this year, First Nations Health Authority clients with active Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage will be eligible for the BC PharmaCare program.

If you have your MSP enrolled through FNHA, the move is automatic. A very small number of clients do not have MSP paid for by FNHA and will continue to have interim coverage with NIHB, ensuring you will get the drugs you need. To enrol in MSP, just contact your FNHA representative as usual.

The transition to PharmaCare is part of an overall plan to bring decision-making about health benefits closer to home and into the hands of First Nations. Bringing the program home to B.C. is our first step in improving it.

We ask that FNHA clients continue to take both their BC Services Card (or CareCard) and Status Card to the pharmacy when filling prescriptions.

Our current clients will continue to be eligible under PharmaCare for the medications they need - but a small number of recipients may have to change to a different comparable drug. If this happens to you and you have any concerns, please discuss it with your doctor or pharmacist.

We suggest that anyone preparing to travel out of province should plan ahead and fill prescriptions here in British Columbia before leaving. PharmaCare is a BC program, and cannot pay for prescriptions filled in other provinces. In most cases, clients are eligible to receive an advance supply lasting up to 100 days. Anyone needing more information before travelling should speak directly with a pharmacist.

Please visit [FNHA.ca](http://FNHA.ca) for information and updates as these changes come online. Anyone with questions about the switch to PharmaCare may call FNHA's Health Benefits phone number toll-free at 1.855.550.5454, or email FNHA at [HealthBenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:HealthBenefits@fnha.ca).