



**KWAKIUTL DISTRICT COUNCIL
HEALTH OFFICE
1400 A DRAKE ROAD
CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C. V9W 7K6
Phone (250) 286-9766 Fax (250) 286 9713**

Attention Komok's and Campbell River Medical and/or Pharmaceutical Service Providers,

It has been recently brought to our attention that First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) has made some major changes to the way we, as Status First Nations, will receive our Health Benefits in regards to prescription drug coverage.

They have taken on a partnership with BC PharmaCare that will divide where coverages come from for the various prescription drugs that have previously been covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits (now, First Nations Health Authority). The name of the new coverage through PharmaCare is named "Plan W".

It is to the best of our understanding that there will now be two separate lists that will need to be searched prior to prescribing/filling drugs for Status First Nation patients; one list that will be still held by FNHA and one that will be held by BC PharmaCare. It is not clear at this point what drugs are on either of these lists. It is also not clear how this is going to directly effect our most vulnerable population, our Elders, who receive ongoing prescription drugs for their demanding and sensitive medical needs.

We are expecting that a LARGE amount of clients will be needing to switch their prescriptions to drugs that are covered by this new arrangement between BC PharmaCare and FNHA.

We understand that for Physicians it is an extra step to double check that what is being prescribed is going to be covered under FNHA and/or the new BC PharamCare Plan W, but we urge that Physicians please take this extra step to ensure that our people are able to access their prescriptions. So often if a prescription isn't covered, they will not be able to afford to fill it, and this will only return them to medical services which causes the province to accrue greater medical costs from the frequent clinician visits.

Pharmacists, if you receive a prescription for a Status First Nation that is not covered under their benefits, if you would be able to connect with the prescribing Physician to arrange for a change of drug to one that falls under the coverage plan, that would be absolutely amazing.

I've attached the small amount of information that we've been able to attain through First Nations Health Authority about this process. Please send me your questions and concerns and I

will do my best to answer them, or seek out the answers required.

Gilakas'la for your time in reviewing this letter, as well as the other provided documents that aim to aid the transition of First Nations Drug Benefits program.

Please don't hesitate to contact me,

Tanille Johnston, BSW, RSW, MSW Candidate
Patient Health Care Navigator
Kwakiutl District Council Health
1400A Drake Road
Campbell River, BC V9W7K6
Office: 250.286.9766
Cell: 250.202.4219
Fax: 250.286.9713
Email: tanille.johnston@kdchealth.com