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Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Health and Community Services

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 2019

To: Dental Providers
From: Dr. Ed Williams, Dental Consultant
Re: Payer of Last Resort

As per section 5.0 of the most recent Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association (NLDA) and the Minister of Health and Community Services (HSC), the provincially funded Dental Health Plan (DHP), including the Children's Dental Health Program, Income Support Program, Low Income (Access) Program and the Adult Dental Program is the payer of last resort. This requires providers to ascertain if their patient has private dental insurance and, if yes, to bill that policy first.

Analysis of billings to MCP and comparison to national averages shows that the DHP is not experiencing the full benefits of the payer of last resort policy. As a result HCS is undertaking the following initiative:

- 1) An affidavit of personal dental insurance has been developed in conjunction with the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association. **This form (enclosed within and also available on the Government website) should be completed by the patient and kept in the patient's on site file. This form must be available in the event of an audit or a request for a record of service.** It will have a space for your office stamp and space where the patient can indicate that he/she has been asked about private insurance. There will also be space for the patient's signature.
- 2) Compliance with this process will be monitored through the Audit Division, where up to ten of the forms may be requested per pay period per provider.

The most common question we expect is: Why this and why now?

- This is not new and payer of last resort has been the policy of the DHP since 2006.
- Analysis and anecdotal evidence demonstrates that the policy is not being followed.
- Increasing budget pressures highlight the need for adherence to policies to control overspending. With a fixed budget, failure to maximize any savings can only have negative effects on the DHP.
- The long term sustainability of the DHP in its current scope depends on third party insurance policies paying their share of the cost of treatment.

It is very important that all dental providers recognize the importance of adhering to the policy of payer of last resort. Thank you in advance for keeping the NLDA's commitment to follow this policy thereby ensuring the sustainability of the provincial DHP.

Thank you

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Your Children's and Adult Dental Plan

STAMP OR SIGNATURE OF DENTAL OFFICE

Your provincially funded Children's and Adult Dental Plans provide coverage for eligible basic services. To help in financially supporting your program we now require that you fill out this simple form.

Do you have individual or family insurance coverage outside the provincial Dental Health Plan?

Yes _____

No _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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