



Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch - Atlantic Region

Medical Transportation Information Sheet for
Newfoundland First Nation Band Members

Medical transportation benefits are provided to assist clients in accessing medically necessary health benefits (in Canada) that are not provided on reserve or in the community of residence. Benefits may include expenses for approved **travel, meals and accommodations** when accessing:

- Medical services that are covered by provincial and territorial health plans, such as physician appointments, hospital care, diagnostic tests (i.e. x-rays) and medical treatments
- Alcohol, solvent, drug abuse and detox treatment
- Traditional healers
- Non-Insured Health Benefits: vision, dental and short term crisis counselling services
- Methadone: Clients are eligible for medical transportation to a pharmacy, where a pharmacist supervises the administration of the methadone, for a maximum of four months. Clients are eligible for medical transportation to see a methadone prescribing physician on an ongoing basis, if the prescriber is the nearest medical facility. This service is intended for client-physician consultations only

Note: NIHB **does not** cover expenses for the return trip home in cases of an illness while away from home other than for approved travel to access medically required health services.

TRAVEL

It is recommended all travel be prior approved by NIHB* by calling 1800-565-3294 at least 3 days prior to your appointment date. Travel is arranged to the nearest appropriate health professional or facility using the most efficient and economical mode of transportation taking into consideration the urgency of the situation and medical condition of the client. Travel beyond the nearest facility is determined on a case by case basis once medical justification is submitted and reviewed by NIHB.

The nearest facility can be confirmed by contacting your Health Centre or NIHB at 1800-565-3294

* Miawpukek members will need to contact their Health Centre for travel authorization as per their contribution agreement.

Modes of Travel

- **Private Vehicle:** Clients may drive themselves or have someone drive them to a medical appointment and be reimbursed at \$0.215/km (Effective April 1, 2014)
 - Note: Private mileage under 35km return is not a benefit.
- **Bus:** Clients may travel by bus which can be pre-arranged and paid directly by NIHB. When travelling by bus, taxis may be pre-arranged or the client may be reimbursed with original receipts.
- **Air:** Clients requiring air travel should call NIHB at 1800-565-3294 for information.
- **Shuttle Service:** is available for clients who have medical appointments in St. John's

MEALS*

Assistance with meals may be approved when time away from home to attend a medical appointment is **more than six hours** in one day. Assistance with a meal may be approved for trips less than six hours with medical justification (i.e., if client has to fast before a procedure). If approved, assistance will be provided at the following rates (effective January 7, 2014), depending on the time of day travel occurs:

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children under 5 (Effective April 1, 2014)</u>
Breakfast**	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
Lunch	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
Supper	\$24.00	\$12.00

**Receipts for meals are not required.*

***Breakfast is covered only when overnight accommodations are approved or in situations where medical justification is provided.*

When meals are approved, arrangements can be made by NIHB so clients do not have to pay upfront. Meals can be arranged with the providers listed in the Accommodations@ section below and/or at the following hospitals:

- **Health Sciences Centre - General Hospital**
- **Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre**

ACCOMMODATIONS

Assistance with accommodations may be provided when travel from home to the medically required appointment is more than 600 km return. Requests for accommodations for travel less than 600 km will be reviewed with medical justification. When a client chooses to stay in a private home, reimbursement must not exceed the NIHB regional rate (\$13.50/night/person). Effective October 1, 2015, commercial accommodation (hotels, motels, hostels) in the Atlantic Region will be reimbursed up to a \$135.00 maximum per night. Commercial accommodations may require a damage deposit upon check in. This deposit is the responsibility of the client and is not covered by NIHB. **Original receipts for commercial accommodations are required for reimbursement.**

If you are approved for accommodations, arrangements can be made by NIHB so clients do not have to pay upfront with the following providers:

St. John's

- **St. John's Native Friendship Centre**, 716 Water Street (709) 726-5902
- **Extended Stay Deluxe Hotel St. John's Downtown**, 222 LeMarchant Rd (709) 754-7888
- **Hillview Terrace Efficiency Suites**, 3 Wadland Crescent (709) 754-9822

REIMBURSEMENT

All requests for reimbursement of eligible benefits must be made within one year from the date of service. Confirmation of the medical appointment attendance is required (either using the claim form or on a separate physician letterhead). Please remember to submit all required documents and original receipts with your request. Complete and sign all parts of the Atlantic Region's Claim for Medical Transportation Reimbursement@ form. Reimbursement forms are available at your Community Health Centre or from NIHB. Unsigned or incomplete forms will be returned to the client. Reimbursement requests with receipts can be mailed to the NIHB regional office at the address below.

**Non-Insured Health Benefits
First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada
Suite 1525, 1505 Barrington Street Halifax, NS B3J 3Y6**

If you have questions or concerns regarding NIHB medical transportation benefits, please call NIHB toll-free at 1-800-565-3294 or email at ATLNIHB@hc-sc.gc.ca.

**For more information on NIHB please visit our website:
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php>**