



Memorandum

Date: August 17, 2004

To: EIA Assistant Directors
(Winnipeg)
EIA Rural Program Managers

From: Pam Goulet, Executive Director
Adult and Children's Programs

John Petersen, Executive Director
Employment and Income
Assistance Programs

Telephone:

Subject: Compensation for Persons Infected with Hepatitis C (HCV)

Further to directives 2001-23 and 2002-70, this directive provides additional information on the compensation available for persons infected with HCV. Compensation programs fall into two groups, based on when the disease was contracted. A person can receive compensation under one group only.

HCV Contracted before January 1, 1986 or between July 1, 1990 and September 28, 1998

There are two compensation programs for persons who contracted HCV during this period. Persons who contracted HCV in Manitoba may be eligible for both programs.

Manitoba Hepatitis C Assistance Program (MHCAP)

MHCAP provides a one-time payment of \$10,000 to persons who became infected with HCV as a direct result of receiving a blood transfusion or blood products in Manitoba before January 1, 1986 or between July 1, 1990 and September 28, 1998. Compensation is also available for persons who contracted HCV indirectly from a person eligible for this compensation, as well as the estate of a person who died from HCV contracted under these conditions. Further information is available from the Manitoba Health website:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/hcv/mhcap.html. Application packages may be obtained from:

Manitoba Hepatitis C Assistance Program
Manitoba Health
4036-300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9
Toll Free: 1-866-357-0196 Winnipeg: 788-6339

This compensation, as well as compensation from a similar program of another Canadian jurisdiction, is exempt under subclause 8(1)(a)(xi) of the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Regulation, except for any portion that is for loss or replacement of income.

Pre-1986/Post-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Fund

Persons who contracted HCV as a result of receiving contaminated blood or blood products anywhere in Canada prior to January 1, 1986, or between July 1, 1990 and September 28, 1998, may be eligible to receive compensation under the Canadian Red Cross Pre-1986/Post-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Fund. Persons who were infected indirectly by a person eligible for this compensation, as well as family members of an eligible person, also qualify for compensation. Further information on this fund can be obtained from the website: www.kpmg.ca/hepatitisc.

This compensation package is exempt under subclause 8(1)(a)(xii) of the Employment and Income Assistance Regulation.

HCV Contracted between January 1, 1986 and July 1, 1990

Persons who contracted HCV between January 1, 1986 and July 1, 1990, through a blood transfusion or blood products received anywhere in Canada, are covered by a Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) agreement, administered by the federal government. Persons who were infected indirectly by a person eligible for this compensation, as well as family members of an eligible person, also qualify for compensation. The Manitoba government contributes to this federally-administered program.

Under the FPT agreement, persons who are infected with HCV and qualify for compensation may be entitled to the following benefits:

1. a fixed payment as compensation for pain and suffering, based upon the individual's medical condition;
2. reimbursement for uninsured HCV treatment and medication costs;
3. reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses such as child care, travel, hotels or meals attributable to seeking medical advice regarding HCV;
4. up to \$1,000 per month of completed compensable HCV Drug Therapy (e.g., interferon); and
5. compensation for loss of income, loss of services in the home and/or the cost of care such as home nursing services.

Application packages may be obtained from:

1986-1990 Hepatitis C Claims Centre
P.O. Box 2370, Station D
Ottawa ON K1P 5W5
Toll Free: 1-877-434-0944
www.hepc8690.com

Application packages on the website are for viewing purposes only. Claim form packages must be ordered by e-mail (forms@hepc8690.ca) or by contacting the Hepatitis C Claims Centre.

This compensation is exempt under subclause 8(1)(a)(x) of the Employment and Income Assistance Regulation, except for any portion that is for loss of income or support.

Please ensure that participants with HCV access the compensation available under these programs. In particular, assistance for medical expenses should not be provided by EIA if the participant is entitled to reimbursement under the FPT Agreement.

Original signed by Pam Goulet
Executive Director
Adult and Children's Programs

Original signed by John Petersen
Executive Director
Employment and Income Assistance Programs

cc: Gerry Schmidt
Ron Fenwick
John Leggat
Community Area Directors
FSH Area Directors
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Distribution List