

## Non-Insured Health Benefits Program- Status First Nations People

<https://health.chiefs-of-ontario.org/priorities/nihb/>

The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program provides benefit coverage for approximately 176,400 First Nations people in Ontario. These benefits include: **Drugs, Dental, Medical Supplies & Equipment, Medical Transportation, Eye & Vision Care, Short-term Crisis Intervention Mental Health Counselling, and Health Benefits Outside of Canada.**

### Important Client Information

To ensure you are eligible for a benefit and do not end up with out-of-pocket expenses for a service that was provided to you by one of the NIHB service providers, please ask the service provider if:

1. They bill directly to the NIHB Program **and/or**
2. If the service is an eligible benefit within the NIHB Program

If you still have further concerns and/or questions in regards to your eligibility for a medical item, supply, service, and/or travel provided under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, please call:

- Your local community health representative who works with the Program; **and/or**
- NIHB Client Information Line at **1-800-640-0642**; this number is for inquiries on all benefit areas except Dental benefits;
- ***Expressscripts client line: 1-888-441-4777***

The NIHB Dental Predetermination Centre for dental and orthodontics is:

Dental Services: Toll free **1-855-618-6291**

Orthodontic Services: Toll free: **1-866-227-0943**

### NIHB Navigators: Overview

The NIHB Navigator positions were part of the dialogue during the First Nation Contribution to the Blueprint on Aboriginal Health, and resolution 52/2005 of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). During this time, the AFN documented more than 300 calls for assistance from individual clients over a 2 year period, and noted an increase in the challenges faced by First Nations when accessing NIHB Program benefits. This was due to the NIHB program being subjected to several policy and cost management initiatives since the late 1990s. There are now navigators in almost every region and territory across the country.

In 2010 the Chiefs of Ontario were successful in negotiating with FNIH/Ontario Region for two Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigators. The Navigators provide advocacy and liaison support on behalf of First Nation communities, community health workers and their clients, and organizations as it relates to the NIHB Program. The navigators also assist in addressing and resolving NIHB issues on behalf of First Nation communities and organizations to make NIHB more accessible and less challenging for Ontario First Nations.

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