Medical Services Plan (MSP) Premium Elimination

MSP premiums will be eliminated as of January 1, 2020. The MSP program will remain mandatory and continue to provide provincially insured health care benefits for eligible B.C. residents.

Monthly premiums billed prior to January 1, 2020 must be paid to Revenue Services of BC. Following MSP Premium Elimination, any outstanding premium debt will continue to be collected.

Claims Billing

Claims submission and payment for insured medical services will remain unchanged following January 1, 2020.

MSP Accounts

B.C. residents must continue to fulfill their MSP obligations under the *Medicare Protection Act*, including updating their MSP account due to address changes.

Health care providers should remind clients to let Health Insurance BC (HIBC) know when there are changes to their account.

- HIBC and the Ministry of Health offer easy-to-use online services to ensure that your client’s MSP account information and address stay current. To update your MSP account, visit [gov.bc.ca/managingyourMSPaccount](http://gov.bc.ca/managingyourMSPaccount).
- Address updates can also be submitted at Address Change BC at [addresschange.gov.bc.ca](http://addresschange.gov.bc.ca)

Regular Premium Assistance and Temporary Premium Assistance

Due to the elimination of premiums, Regular Premium Assistance and Temporary Premium Assistance programs will be discontinued effective January 1, 2020.

If your clients think they qualify for Regular Premium Assistance or Temporary Premium Assistance, they can still apply. Regular Premium Assistance and Temporary Premium Assistance applications received after December 31, 2019 will not be accepted.

Supplementary Benefits

Through the Supplementary Benefits program, MSP provides partial payment for certain supplementary health services obtained in British Columbia (for example, massage therapy and chiropractic services) and may provide access to other income-based programs such as the Healthy Kids program and waiver of ambulance fees. Supplementary benefits are currently available to those who qualify for premium assistance.
For recipients of the Supplementary Benefits program, MSP contributes $23 per visit for a combined annual limit of 10 visits each calendar year for the following services: acupuncture, chiropractic, massage therapy, naturopathy, physical therapy and non-surgical podiatry.

Following elimination of premiums, limited coverage for Supplementary Benefits services will remain available for individuals and families with an adjusted net income of $42,000 or less, and Beneficiaries covered under assigned groups.

- New Applications for Supplementary Benefits can be made using a new online form or paper application form.
- If a Beneficiary has already applied for Regular Premium Assistance, HIBC will continue to assess eligibility for Supplementary Benefits. Individuals and families must continue to file income taxes annually with the Canada Revenue Agency to remain eligible.
- Supplementary Benefits covered by the Ministry of Health, and the amount MSP contributes per visit, will remain unchanged.
- Access to the Healthy Kids program and waiver of ambulance fees will remain unchanged.

For more information or to apply for Supplementary Benefits, your clients can visit gov.bc.ca/MSP/supplementarybenefits.

Verification of Enrolment

When providing medical services, MSP enrolment must continue to be verified with HIBC. This applies regardless of whether your client has a BC Services Card (Photo or Non-Photo) or other identification that demonstrates their identity and supports their MSP enrolment.

More Information

For more information about MSP premium elimination visit gov.bc.ca/MSP/premium-elimination
Or contact HIBC by phone at:

  Vancouver:   (604) 456-6950
  Elsewhere in B.C.: 1 866 456-6950

Health care providers and Beneficiaries can continue to use the HIBC Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone service to verify coverage for Supplementary Benefits.