



June 2019

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program Update

UPCOMING CHANGES TO NIHB EYEWEAR COVERAGE

On June 29, 2019, NIHB will make changes to coverage of corrective eyewear (glasses and contact lenses). These changes will make it easier to understand your coverage and will offer more choice – you will be able to use your coverage towards the purchase of any type of prescription eyewear.

These rates will be in effect for eyewear ordered on or after June 29, 2019:

Standard Coverage Amount	\$275*	For prescriptions that are less than ± 7.0 (minimum prescription strength will continue to apply). This is the most common rate.
High Index Coverage Amount	\$415*	For prescriptions that are ± 7.00 or higher.

**Clients in the Northern Territories and Atlantic region can contact their regional office for information on applicable rates.*

How often you are covered for eyewear will not change. Children 0-17 years are eligible once a year; clients 18 years and older are eligible once every two years; clients whose prescription changes a lot may be eligible for early replacement of the lenses. However, frequency periods will be changed to a calendar year basis. For example, for an adult who is eligible every two years, if you get new eyewear at any time in 2019, you will be eligible again on January 1, 2021.

There will be no change to the policy on exceptions. As was the case before, some clients will qualify for more coverage (reimbursement amount or frequency) based on their medical need.

You can contact your [NIHB regional office](#) for more information about these changes.

NIHB Client Inquiries

Email	NIHB-SSNA@hc-sc.gc.ca
Alberta	1-800-232-7301
Atlantic	1-800-565-3294
British Columbia	First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) 1-855-550-5454
Manitoba	1-800-665-8507
Northwest Territories/Nunavut	1-888-332-9222
Ontario	1-800-640-0642
Quebec	1-514-283-1575 1-877-483-1575
Saskatchewan	1-866-885-3933
Yukon	1-866-362-6717