

# Health Related Services

## Description

The following health related services and benefits are available through the Income Support Program.

## Vision Care

### Eye Examinations

Assistance with the cost of a routine eye examination will be considered upon request by the applicant/recipient of Income Support. Dependent children under 18 years of age are eligible to receive this service once every 12 months, while adults are eligible once every 36 months.

### Eye Glasses

Applicants/recipients may be eligible for a contribution towards the cost of eyeglasses, as prescribed by an optometrist or physician.

Funding for glasses will be issued at a maximum of once every three years for adults and once a year for children unless there is a medically substantiated reason provided by the optometrist or physician for a more frequent change. Financial support may be provided directly to assist with the cost, or clients may receive an Authorization for Service to bring to the company of their choice who will invoice the department directly at the prescribed rates.

## Prescription Drug Program

This program provides a Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) card to individuals and families who are receiving Income Support benefits. This card covers the total cost of eligible prescription medications, including dispensing fees. If clients have a private health insurance plan that covers a percentage of prescriptions, a drug card can be issued to offset the difference of approved drugs. If recipients leave the Income Support Program due to employment, a drug card can be issued for an extended 12-month period.

## Medical Transportation

Income Support clients may be eligible for medical travel through the Department of Labrador Affairs. Applicants/recipients requiring assistance with medical travel must contact the Department of Labrador Affairs at 1-833-729-6106.

If an ambulance is required for an emergency, eligible recipients only need to produce their valid Ambulance/Dental Services card, issued with the beginning of the month pay stub, to the ambulance attendant.

## Medical Equipment and Supplies

Applicants/recipients may be eligible for medical equipment and/or supplies provided through the Special Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Community Services. Supplies may include items such as incontinent supplies, oxygen and wheelchairs. The Special Assistance Program determines the type of equipment and supplies which are covered. More information about the services provided is available by contacting an Income Support officer at 1-877-729-7888.

## Hearing Aids/Prosthetics and Orthotics

Income Support clients are financially eligible for these benefits and an authorization will be forwarded to Health and Community Services once medical documentation requesting such service is provided.

Any resident of this province, not in receipt of supports from a Regional Health Authority (RHA), can apply to have an assessment completed for a hearing aid or prosthetic. If determined eligible, an authorization for health services will be forwarded to Health and Community Services. Requests from non-Income Support clients for orthotics must be made directly to the RHA.

## Dental Services

The Newfoundland Medical Care Commission (MCP) administers the Provincial Dental Health Plan. The Dental Health Plan has two programs under the Department of Health and Community Services:

- **Children's Dental Health Program:** this program provides services for all children up to and including 12 years of age, and for children 13 to 17 years old whose families are in receipt of Income Support benefits or the Access Plan. Eligible coverage includes fillings, extractions and examinations every two years.
- **Adult Dental Health Program:** Adults in receipt of Income Support benefits are eligible for an examination, two x-rays, routine fillings and extractions once every three years. Standard dentures are also available once every eight years. For further information, please visit the Health and Community Services website [www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/dentalservices/general-info/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/dentalservices/general-info/)

### Technical Assistance Devices

The Department can provide a recipient, as a one-time only purchase, technical assistance devices upon verification that they are deaf or hard of hearing. One or all three of the following services may be provided:

- Visual Smoke Detector up to \$250.00 including HST;
- Alertmaster telephone/doorbell combination system up to \$155.00 including HST; and
- TTY device up to \$422.00 including HST.

Monthly cost and maintenance associated with these devices is the responsibility of the recipient. A physician, audiologist, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association or other approved professional, can provide verification of a client's medical condition.

### Special Diet Allowance

Financial assistance may be provided to purchase certain foods because of a particular medical condition, such as diabetes. Depending on the medical condition, eligibility of up to \$60 a month may be provided. To qualify for the special diet allowance medical documentation of the condition is required.

Note: For some of the items/services listed above consideration can be given to individuals not currently receiving Income Support benefits, based on a financial assessment. An application for Income Support must be completed to determine eligibility. For more information on programs and services offered by the Income Support Program, please call the toll free number at 1-877-729-7888.