



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Assisting First Nations Health Authority Clients Outside BC

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

FNHA is a first-of-its-kind organization, built by and for BC First Nations leadership for BC First Nations children, families and communities. FNHA is an organization founded on the knowledge, practices, and perspective on health and wellness of BC First Nations. FNHA works to reform the way health care is delivered to BC First Nations through direct services, provincial partnership collaboration, and health systems innovation.

More information about FNHA is available at <https://www.fnha.ca/>

FNHA HEALTH BENEFITS

FNHA Health Benefits provides dental, vision, medical supplies and equipment (MS&E), pharmacy, mental health, and medical transportation benefits.

The dental, vision, and MS&E benefits are administered through a partnership with Pacific Blue Cross (PBC). Information for providers on these three benefit areas can be found on the PBC provider site:

<https://www.pac.bluecross.ca/provider>

BC PharmaCare is the primary provider of FNHA's drug benefits through Plan W. PBC is the secondary provider of pharmacy benefits and administers a small list of supplementary drugs to support FNHA wellness initiatives.

Providers located outside of BC who are supporting FNHA clients can contact FNHA Health Benefits by calling toll-free at: **1.855.550.5454** or email: healthbenefits@fnha.ca

FNHA HEALTH BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for Health Benefits individuals must be:

- A registered "Indian" as defined by the *Indian Act*, or the infant of an eligible parent; and
- A resident of British Columbia.

Residents of British Columbia are people who:

- Are Canadian citizens or permanent residents,
- Make their home in BC, and
- Are physically present in BC at least six months in a calendar year.

Individuals are not eligible for Health Benefits if they are already covered by another third-party health insurance provided by the Federal Government or by a First Nations organization as part of a funding agreement.

CLIENT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLING BETWEEN PROVINCES

BC PharmaCare is a provincial program and cannot pay directly for prescriptions filled outside of BC. FNHA Health Benefits asks clients who are travelling outside of BC to plan ahead to ensure they have enough medication for their trip.

- Clients can usually 'top up' their prescription to the maximum days' supply that BC PharmaCare covers.
- Clients can use this early top-up option only once every 6 months.

If FNHA clients are travelling outside of BC for an extended period of time, they may need to fill their prescription at an out-of-province pharmacy. Clients will need to pay out-of-pocket for a prescription filled at an out-of-province pharmacy. If the prescription is eligible for coverage, clients can request reimbursement upon their return to BC. Clients should complete the: [PharmaCare Out-of-Province Client Reimbursement Form](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/5480fil.pdf) which can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/5480fil.pdf>. The reimbursement form should be mailed with the official pharmacy receipts to the following address:

Health Insurance BC
PO BOX 9684 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9P7

Please note that credit card or debit (Interac) slips are not accepted as proof of payment. Official pharmacy receipts must be submitted.

TEMPORARY ABSENCE FROM BC

FNHA clients who are planning to be in another province for up to 24 months (e.g., students or individuals working on a short-term contract) should contact Health Benefits at **1.855.550.5454** to make sure their Health Benefits coverage continues while they are away. Clients who temporarily move away from BC may experience interruptions to their MSP coverage, which may impact their Health Benefits coverage.

PERMANENT MOVES FROM BC

Clients who are permanently moving outside of BC should contact Health Benefits at **1.855.550.5454** to cancel their MSP and Health Benefits coverage. Clients who are moving to another province in Canada will be enrolled in the federally-run Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program, and Health Benefits will provide transitional coverage for the month the client leaves and two additional consecutive months. Clients moving outside of Canada will have transitional coverage for the month they leave.

CONTACT FNHA HEALTH BENEFITS

Questions? Connect with the Health Benefits team:

Toll-free: **1.855.550.5454**
Email: healthbenefits@fnha.ca