

# Bulletin



Bulletin Number	Date	Direct inquiries to
<b>8104</b>	<b>June 4, 2009</b>	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Distribution		
<b>Optometrists</b>		

## **Subject: Northern Health Travel Grant Program**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is moving forward with its goal to modernize and streamline service delivery for Ontarians. An initiative in line with achieving this goal is the provision of a more efficient and effective delivery process for the Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) Program. This initiative will benefit your patients by reducing the waiting period for grant assessments and reducing the volume of inquiries received by your office regarding patient applications.

As the NHTG Program is striving to reduce the application processing time and improve our service delivery capabilities, we would ask you to advise your patients of the following information on Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) benefits and the requirements for referring providers.

### **WSIB Claimants Not Eligible for NHTG Benefits**

Patients eligible to receive, or who are receiving, WSIB benefits for a work related injury are not eligible for NHTG assistance for medical services related to that injury and should not apply, as their application will be denied. Please advise your patients receiving WSIB benefits of their ineligibility for NHTG assistance. This will save valuable time for all NHTG stakeholders, including you and your staff, eliminating the need for your staff to complete the form, only to have the application rejected.

If the patient still wishes to apply for a grant, we would ask you to indicate on the application that the service is WSIB related. This will ensure payments are not issued in error and will avoid costly recovery efforts.

### **Requirements for Referrals**

Patients applying for a NHTG must have the Northern Ontario referring provider complete the referral section of the application form. The patient **does not** require a referral under the following circumstances:

- Has previously applied for a NHTG and has had a previous referral (within 12 months) to the same specialist/facility.
- Is 50-69 years of age and traveling to an Ontario Breast Screening Program.
- Is traveling for abortion services.

**Note:** Please remind your patients and staff not to remove the cover sheet from the NHTG Application as it contains important information for the applicants regarding the completion of the form. The form is available for downloading on the government's Forms website at:

[www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/FormDetail?OpenForm&ACT=RDR&TAB=PROFILE&ENV=WWE&NO=014-0327-88](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/FormDetail?OpenForm&ACT=RDR&TAB=PROFILE&ENV=WWE&NO=014-0327-88)

**For more information:**

If you have any questions or comments regarding this bulletin or the NHTG Program, please call: (705) 675-4010 or for Northern residents, call 1 800 461-4006 (for service in English) or 1 800 461-1149 (for service in French).

**You can also refer to the following website for the NHTG Program fact sheet at:**

[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ohip/northern.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ohip/northern.html)