

Statement of Policy and Procedure	
Policy No.	P013
Department Ownership	Health + Wellness
Issue/Effective Date	April 2016

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ First Nation

AFN Band Member Assistance Policy

Approved by Council April 2016

Policy: **No. 013**
Issue Date: **April 2016**

ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ First Nation Band Member Assistance Policy

ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ First Nation (AFN) offers limited assistance to Band Members for necessary medical costs that are not adequately covered by provincially/federally funded programs, social assistance, fair pharmacare, extended benefits through employment, ICBC, WCB, are not eligible for full Non-Insured Health Benefit coverage and there is a medical /financial need. This assistance is to support the members to access services to improve their health and wellness.

This program is subject to limitations according to the availability of funds.

Guidelines

- Funding varies yearly and not all funding requests may be approved
- Medical need and severity of the health issue will be primary consideration
- All other funding sources must be expended first ie. Employer sponsored health coverage, Extended Health Coverage, ICBC/WCB, FNHA/NIHB
- For eligible expenses (see coverage sections below) under **\$50.00**, Band members should pay the cost and bring in their receipts for reimbursement. Alternatively, members can contact the Health Centre, advise the staff of the cost and arrange for the provider to bill the Health Centre directly.
- All costs over **\$50.00** must be pre-approved by the Health Director

Coverage

Dental

Covered:

- Extra billed routine treatment ie. Check up, cleaning fillings. Costs over \$50.00 require pre-approval.
- Oral surgery costs with the following conditions:
 - Children-parents/caregivers of children who require oral surgery will be required to meet with the Health Director and Dental Hygienist prior to approval. A preventative treatment plan will be developed at the meeting.
- Partial assistance for approved orthodontic treatment to a maximum of **\$500.00** Orthodontic treatment must be medically required. A treatment plan from an Orthodontist must accompany the application.

Not covered:

- Cosmetic work and/optional filling replacement
- Requests for additional coverage will be evaluate on medical necessity and impact on overall health

Optical

Covered:

- Eye exam fee not covered by FNHA/NIHB, once every 2 years
- An additional **\$120.00** above the cost of frames covered by FNHA/NIHB
- Basic Anti-scratching coating
- More frequent eye exams may be covered if medically necessary. *
- Adjustment for lens thickness will be considered on a case by case basis. *

Not covered:

- Tinting and transition lenses unless medically necessary. *
- Contact lenses unless medically necessary. *

Prescriptions

Covered:

- Prescriptions that are not covered by Pharmacare/ FNHA/NIHB but are medically necessary. *
- Extra billing costs for prescriptions covered by Pharmacare/FNHA/NIHB
- Over the counter medications not covered but prescribed by a Physician or Nurse Practitioner
- Naturopath prescriptions that replace a pharmaceutical prescription, (prescription and documentation required)
- For frequent users, a prescription review by a Physician or Nurse Practitioner will be required a least once a year

Medical Supplies

Covered

- Supplies that are not covered by FNHA/NIHB but are medically necessary. *

Counselling

Covered:

- Counselling costs must be pre-approved following these steps for funded service
 - Seek funding from other sources ie. Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program, employer sponsored health coverage, publically funded services such as Mental Health counselling provided by Interior Health
 - Counselling by approved Counsellor with Masters Level Certification in Psychology or Social Work

Hearing

Covered:

- Costs not covered by FNHA/NIHB on a case by case basis

Podiatry

Covered:

- Limited podiatry treatment with Physicians orders and preapproval by Band Nurse

Massage/Physiotherapy/Acupuncture/Chiropractor/Naturopath/Footcare *

Covered:

- With written confirmation from Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Band Nurse that treatment is medically appropriate *
- Appropriate assessments required for foot care on a regular basis
- Patient portion of treatment costs when referred by Physician or Nurse Practitioner

Not covered:

- Aromatherapy, Reiki, Hypnotherapy

*** With written confirmation from Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Band Nurse**