

## **Akisqnuk First Nation Band Member Assistance Policy**

Akisqnuk offers limited assistance to Band Members for necessary medical costs that are not covered by provincially/federally funded programs, social assistance, fair pharmacare, extended benefits through employment, ICBC, WCB, and are not eligible for full Non-Insured Health Benefit coverage. This assistance is to support the members to access services to improve their health.

Contact person at the Health Centre is, Health Director, Patsy Nicholas 250-342-6379

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 **\$100.00**, 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 **\$100.00** must be pre-approved by the Health Director

### **Coverage**

#### **Dental**

##### Covered:

- Extra billed routine treatment ie. Check up, cleaning fillings. Costs over \$100.00 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 FNHA/NIHB but are medically necessary. \*
- Extra billing costs for prescriptions covered by FNHA/NIHB
- Over the counter medications prescribed by a Physician or Nurse Practitioner
- Naturopath prescriptions that replace a pharmaceutical prescription, (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**

