

Health Benefits Exception Committee

Contact Us:

For more information on Health Benefit Programs for Albertans with low income you can contact the following offices or go to the websites listed below:

Income Support or AISH Health Benefits

Contact your worker at the office where your file is held.

Learner Health Benefits

Alberta Employment and Immigration Student Funding Contact Centre

PO Box 28000, STN Main
Edmonton, AB T5J 4R4

Phone: Toll-free 1-800-222-6485
or 780-427-3722 in Edmonton

Fax: Toll-free 310-0000, then enter 780-415-9947
or 780-415-9947 in Edmonton

Alberta Adult Health Benefit and Alberta Child Health Benefit

Alberta Human Services Health Benefits Contact Centre

PO Box 2222
Edmonton, AB T5J 5H4

Phone: Toll-free 1-877-469-5437
or 780-427-6848 in Edmonton

Fax: Toll-free 310-0000, then enter 780-415-8386,
or 780-415-8386 in Edmonton

Online Policies on Health Benefits and the
Health Benefits Exception Committee
employment.alberta.ca/hb-policy

General info on these Health Benefits programs
employment.alberta.ca/hb



AEHB 1634 (2015/07)

What does the Exception Committee do?

- This committee provides a fair review of requests for health benefit exceptions and ensures Albertans with low income who have unique medical needs can access the health supports they need.
- If you need a health benefit not covered on the Health Benefits Card, you can request a review by the Health Benefits Exception Committee.
- The Health Benefits Exception Committee will review requests for drugs, optical, dental, ambulance services and diabetic supplies that are not covered on your Health Benefits Card.
- If you want to submit an exception request refer to the Contact Us section of the brochure for the office to contact.

How do I request a review?

- Obtain a Request for Review of Decision form from your worker or from our website employment.alberta.ca/hb-review
- Complete all sections of the form explaining what health benefit you need, why and who will provide the health benefit.
- Attach any information related to your request that your health care provider can provide.
- Submit the completed form to the appropriate office listed in the Contact Us section of this brochure. This office can also provide additional information and answer any questions you may have. If you need assistance filling out the form, please ask.

What happens next?

- Your doctor must complete all sections of a Request for Drugs and Nutritional Products form if you need medication or over-the-counter products. This form is also available from your worker or on our website employment.alberta.ca/hb-drugs. Attach the completed form when you submit your request to your worker.
- The office handling your request will review all information you submit, answer your questions, and submit your documents to the Health Benefits Exception Committee.
- Each case submitted to the Health Benefits Exception Committee is reviewed and researched on an individual basis.
- Staff working for the committee may contact your medical practitioners if more information is needed.
- The committee makes decisions based on health benefits policy and the information you submit to support your request.
- The committee's written decision is mailed to you and includes the reasons for the decision.



Health Benefits

Eligible individuals and families with limited incomes can access free health benefits through several government programs.

Knowing your family's health is cared for will bring you peace of mind.

For more detailed information please go to the Contact Us section on the back of this brochure.



How do I know if I qualify for a Health Benefits Card?

Income Support and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

If you are receiving Income Support (including Learners) or AISH you will receive a Health Benefits Card that provides health benefits coverage for you and your family.

Alberta Adult Health Benefit

You and your family may qualify for a Health Benefits Card, under the Alberta Adult Health Benefit program, if:

- You have high ongoing prescription drug needs, and limited income.
- You are pregnant and have limited income.
- You leave Income Support (Expected to Work, Barriers to Full Employment) and you have income from employment, self-employment, or the Canada Pension Plan Disability program.
- You leave the AISH program and you have income from employment, self-employment, or the Canada Pension Plan Disability program.

Alberta Child Health Benefit

Children in families with limited income can receive coverage under the Alberta Child Health Benefit program. Families qualify based on income.

The following chart provides income thresholds for the Alberta Adult Health Benefit and the Alberta Child Health Benefit Programs.

Family Type	Maximum Income
Single Individual	\$16,580
Single Parent with 1 Child	\$26,023
Single Parent with 2 Children	\$31,010
Single Parent with 3 Children	\$36,325
Single Parent with 4 Children*	\$41,957
Couple with no Children	\$23,212
Couple with 1 Child	\$31,237
Couple with 2 Children	\$36,634
Couple with 3 Children	\$41,594
Couple with 4 Children*	\$46,932

*Add \$4,973.00 for each additional child

How do I figure out my income?

You can calculate your income by looking at your last income tax return.

- Look at Line 236 to find out your net income
- Add any child support you receive, which is on line 156.
- Subtract the amount you were taxed, which is on Line 128.

The amount left is your income. If you have trouble calculating your income, call us.

What does the Health Benefits Card cover?

Prescription Drugs and Nutritional Products

- Many, but not all prescription drugs are paid for. Some over-the-counter products, such as prenatal vitamins and children’s vitamins are also covered. Your pharmacist has a list of what is free with the Health Benefits Card.

Optical Care

- Adults receive a free eye exam and eyeglasses every 24 months if needed.
- Children receive free eye glasses every 12 months if needed (their annual eye exams are covered by Alberta Health).

Dental Care

- Basic services such as extractions and fillings are covered, in order to alleviate pain and infection. Fluoride is covered for children.
- In some cases additional services such as cleaning and annual examinations are also covered. Ask your dentist about your coverage.

Ambulance Services

- Emergency ambulance trips to the nearest hospital are covered.

Diabetic Supplies

- Diabetic supplies such as injection supplies, testing strips, lancets and penlets are covered.

How do I use the Health Benefits Card?

Whether you fill a prescription at a pharmacy, have an eye exam, request eyeglasses or have dental work done, you must always present your Health Benefits Card. That way the health benefit provider can tell you if the service you need is covered by the card.

For example, if a prescription you need is covered by the Health Benefits Card, the pharmacist will provide it to you free of charge. The pharmacist then submits a claim to Alberta Blue Cross, and they pay the pharmacist on behalf of our department.

The Drug Benefit Lists and the Agreements that our department has with optometrists, opticians, dentists and denturists will cover most of the health benefits that you and your family need.

Other Health Plans

If your family has health benefits coverage through another health plan or insurance, you must use that plan first. The Health Benefits Card can cover your remaining costs. Talk to your dentist, optician or pharmacist about how this works.

IMPORTANT: Always present your Health Benefits Card before you receive the service. If the service is covered by the card then it is provided free of charge. If the service is not covered then you should ask the health benefit provider or your worker about alternatives.

On the other side of this brochure, you will find information about the Health Benefits Exception Committee. This committee meets weekly and reviews requests for unique needs that are not covered by the Health Benefits Card.

