

# Improved First Nations Health Benefits Plan for dental, vision, and medical supplies & equipment

## Launching September 16, 2019

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is set to launch a new health benefits plan that will be more convenient to use and expand benefit coverage in key areas.

On September 16, the FNHA will transition dental, vision, and medical supplies and equipment (MS&E) benefits off the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits program. [The FNHA's new partner](#), BC-based benefits provider Pacific Blue Cross, will administer these benefits as of this date.

FNHA clients and their health care providers will find the new system easier to use, with fewer requirements for pre-approvals and quicker turnarounds for adjudications and payments.



In addition, the new plan will offer improved coverage for many health services, such as teeth cleaning, dentures, eye exams and eyeglasses.

The changes to the plan are based on extensive engagement with clients, their health care providers and First Nations health leaders. The FNHA has led 51 focus groups with 98 communities represented across the province. Clients and health workers provided feedback on how the benefits plan could be improved. FNHA also asked Health Directors and care providers what needed to change. Discussions with health care providers included education about cultural safety and humility, one of the topics identified as a concern by clients and health leaders.

### **Host an information session**

The FNHA will share more updates on plan coverage and features in the coming weeks. FNHA Health Benefits Community Relations Representatives are coordinating information sessions in the Regions and invite communities and health workers to contact them about the new plan.

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The FNHA provides other benefits to meet health needs not covered by provincial or third-party health insurance. These include medical transportation, mental health support, and pharmacy benefits through BC PharmaCare Plan W.

### **Questions about your health benefits?**

Call us toll-free at 1.855.550.5454  
Email: [healthbenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:healthbenefits@fnha.ca)



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness