



## **MNSB: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS**

**UPDATE: September 2004**

Dear Physician,

### **Re: the application form for the Monthly Nutritional Supplement Benefit (MNSB)**

It has come to BCPWA's attention that the Ministry of Human Resources requires additional physician information for the MNSB form. In order to facilitate the processing of these applications, I have reproduced the requirements for physicians to follow if a patient's health situation requires the MNSB.

#### **Section #3 of the form**

For #3, the Ministry would prefer to have more than one health problem identified if relevant. The Ministry *will reject applications that do not contain strong narrative* in this section—even if only one health problem is identified—a narrative must be included. **The narrative must refer to symptoms of wasting, chronic and progressive deterioration of health due to a severe medical condition AND to alleviate the symptom of moderate to severe immune suppression.**

#### **Sections #5 #6 #7 of the form**

For your patient to be eligible for nutritional items (#5), bottled water (#6) and vitamin or mineral supplementation (#7), physicians must check both "yes" boxes in each section for the healthcare good required.

The requirement that the healthcare good "prevent imminent danger to life" has been interpreted by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS to mean, "interventions that prevent wasting." If your patient's health may benefit from additional food or vitamin/mineral supplements then these items can help to prevent the progression of HIV disease which would lead to "imminent danger to life".

Physicians must write a brief reason in each section in order for the benefit to be provided. Unfortunately, ***the Ministry will reject applications that do not contain strong narrative in these sections:***

- #5) in addition to normal dietary intake my patient requires additional nutritional items to assist in slowing disease progression, to prevent further wasting, due to chronic deterioration of health, and to alleviate the symptoms of moderate to severe immune suppression. Specific food items must be listed.
- #6) bottled water is needed to prevent cryptosporidium infection which is life threatening and poses imminent danger to life.
- #7) a combination of vitamins and minerals, with additional food, will assist in slowing disease progression and alleviate symptoms from a chronic progressive deterioration of health due to severe medical condition of HIV. Specific Vitamins and Minerals must be listed here.

***Please make a photocopy of the completed form for your patient's file. In the event that this health benefit is denied, a copy of the form will be most helpful.***

If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Colborne, Advocate at 604-893-2223.