

December 2013

On January 1, 2014, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will launch the Ontario Temporary Health Program (OTHP) for refugee claimants. Medavie Blue Cross will be the claims administrator for this program.

The OTHP will provide interim urgent and essential health care coverage (i.e. services as described under the Health Care Coverage category); and medications coverage equivalent to the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) formulary to eligible claimants. See the following Eligibility Chart.

Health Care Coverage will include most services received in a hospital, primary and specialist care, laboratory and diagnostic services provided in Ontario, as well as medications.

The OTHP is a consent-based program available to participants whose claims were not eligible for payment through the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) beyond the Public Health and Public Safety Coverage.

To be eligible for OTHP, refugee claimants are subject to a three-month wait period with the exception of:

- Children under the age of 18;
- Women requiring perinatal and prenatal care; and
- Individuals with a life-threatening condition, as defined through the federal program.

For claims to qualify for the OTHP, they must first be submitted for processing to Medavie Blue Cross through the IFHP. If the claim is rejected for services beyond Public Health and Public Safety Coverage under IFHP, it can be submitted to the OTHP to be considered for payment.

To send to OTHP for payment, all of the following must be submitted:

1. Completed and signed OTHP Consent Form. A consent form is attached. Additional consent forms can be obtained by contacting Medavie Blue Cross at 1-888-614-1880 or visiting the Medavie Blue Cross website at www.medavie.bluecross.ca and selecting the Health Professionals link.
2. A photocopy of the signed IFHP Claim Form. **Clearly indicate on the claim form that you are submitting it to OTHP.**
3. Explanation of Benefits (Payment Statement) from Medavie Blue Cross that explains the reason for the claim's rejection under IFHP.
4. A photocopy of the Claimant Interim Federal Health Certificate of Eligibility (IFHC) or the Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD). **Without the certificate, the client's eligibility cannot be verified and the claim will not be processed.**

All claims must be submitted for payment to Medavie Blue Cross within six months of the date the service was provided. Claims exceeding six months will be rejected. Claims for services dated prior to January 1, 2014, will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Claims and Consent forms can be faxed to **1-855-447-6700** or mailed to the following address:

OTHP
Medavie Blue Cross
644 Main Street, PO Box 6000
Moncton, NB E1C 0P9

If you have any questions, please contact Medavie Blue Cross at 1-888-614-1880.

ONTARIO TEMPORARY HEALTH PROGRAM (OTHP) Eligibility Chart

Providers **must** verify current eligibility status **at each visit** as the client's coverage under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) may have been cancelled or modified due to a change in their immigration status.

- For more information about IFHP (e.g. guides, forms, etc.) visit the Medavie Blue Cross website at www.medavie.bluecross.ca, select the Health Professionals link, then IFHP.

When Providers verify patient coverage on the Medavie Blue Cross website, the screen will display the approved coverage type (Expanded Health Care Coverage, Health Care Coverage or Public Health/Public Safety) and duration of coverage under the IFHP.

If Public Health/Public Safety is displayed, the patient will most likely qualify for OTHP coverage.

Pharmacists will have to call Medavie Blue Cross to determine coverage for medications not related to Public Health/Public Safety.

	Refugee Group	Current IFHP Coverage	OTHP Coverage
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resettled refugees who receive federal income support 	Expanded Health Care Coverage ¹	None
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resettled refugees who do not receive federal income support • Resettled refugees who are privately sponsored • Refugees whose claims have been accepted 	Health Care Coverage ²	None
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee claimants from a non-DCO 	Health Care Coverage ²	ODB equivalent medication
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee claimants from a DCO 	Public Health/Public Safety ³	Health Care Coverage and ODB Formulary equivalent medication
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejected refugee claimants until their deportation dateⁱ 	Public Health/Public Safety ³	Health Care Coverage and ODB Formulary equivalent medication

Definition of Coverage as per IFHP:

1. **Expanded Health Care Coverage** – Health Care Coverage PLUS supplemental services (midwifery, speech-language therapy, limited vision and dental care and translation services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, home care and long-term care, audiology, assistive devices, post-arrival health assessments, psychotherapy and psychology counselling, and medication coverage (more extensive than the Ontario Drug Benefit formulary).
2. **Health Care Coverage** – services and products of an “essential and urgent nature”; includes a number of services equivalent to OHIP (e.g. most services received in a hospital, primary and specialist care, laboratory and diagnostic services provided in Ontario).
3. **Public Health/Public Safety Coverage** – coverage provided for specified public health concerns (e.g., Tuberculosis).

ⁱ Rejected refugee claimants who are past their deportation date would no longer be eligible for OTHP coverage with the following exceptions: i) children under the age of 18; ii) pregnant women for pre/post natal care and delivery; individuals with a life-threatening medical condition, requiring immediate medical attention.