



HEALTH ISSUES UPDATE

Alberta – Budget 2009 – Health Funding Changes and Delisting Chiropractic Services

The government of Alberta announced in its spring budget that it plans to delist chiropractic services from the list of insured services from its provincial health plan. The exact date of the change is not yet known but the government has indicated it will happen in the summer of 2009.

Currently, Albertans are insured under the provincial health plan for up to \$200 annually in chiropractic services.

The budget also announced \$3 billion for physician services which has been earmarked for increased compensation, on-call programs and office computerization. With plans to fund Avastin, the government will increase its funding for cancer drugs by \$16 million or 20% this year.

\$41 million will be used to implement a new Continuing Care Strategy that will enhance home care programs and transition services to help seniors and persons with disabilities return to their communities.

The budget also confirmed the government's commitment that Albertans and Alberta businesses will not pay any health care premiums in 2009-10.

The CLHIA will continue to monitor provincial health plan initiatives and changes closely. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or our health policy analyst, Michelle Hunwicks, at mhunwicks@clhia.ca or (416) 777-2221 ext. 3020 and we will be pleased to assist you.

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