



Special Bulletin

In the summer of 2014 the Standing Committee on Insured Benefits released a Special Bulletin announcing important changes to your eligibility for health and drug coverage as a result of the implementation of a New Brunswick (NB) Drug Plan for all New Brunswick residents effective May 1, 2014.

On December 9, 2014, legislative changes were introduced to the provincial drug plan. A comprehensive review is taking place and during this period of time the “mandatory phase” for the new NB drug plan has been removed. The New Brunswick Drug Plan will continue to be available on a “voluntary basis” until the comprehensive review is completed.

How Does This Change in Legislation Affect Me?

You are not required to have prescription drug coverage.

Can I still choose to join my employer plan?

In July 2014, the Standing Committee on Insured Benefits (SCIB) offered eligible employees of the Province of New Brunswick an “open enrollment” period until March 31, 2015. Today, pending the outcome of government’s review of the NB Drug Plan, SCIB has agreed to extend the open enrollment period until further notice.

This means, you can enroll for group health benefits, on a go forward basis, **by contacting your Human Resources and/or Payroll Department** if you:

- Have been previously declined for coverage under the group health benefits plan (also applies to family members); or
- Currently have coverage under a single status, but would like to add qualifying family members, such as a new child or spouse (change from single to family status); or
- Have previously opted-out of the group health coverage when you first became eligible. Medical underwriting is no longer required; or
- If you are currently absent from work on an approved leave (with or without pay) and are not participating in the health plan (including drug coverage), you can enroll once you return to active employment.

Does my employer plan cover the same drugs as the NB Drug Plan?

Although your employer sponsored drug plan provides coverage for almost 10,000 drugs (the NB Drug Plan covers 5,600 drugs), there are certain high cost drugs that are not covered by your employer sponsored drug plan.

If you are prescribed a drug that is not covered under your employer sponsored drug plan, you can:

- Apply for coverage under the NB Drug Plan; or
- Apply for coverage under a spousal plan (if available).

Coverage under one of these plans can be in addition to (i.e., coverage from multiple plans) or as a replacement for your employer sponsored plan.

Where can I find out more information on the drugs that are covered under my employer sponsored plan or the NB Drug Plan?

- New Brunswick Drug Plan:
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/MedicarePrescriptionDrugPlan/NBDrugPlan/Enrol.html>
- Medavie Blue Cross – employer plan (you must sign in or register to obtain plan information):
<http://web-beta.medavie.bluecross.ca/en/index>

For more information on any of these benefits contact the Pensions & Employee Benefits Division and ask for a Benefits Counsellor at 1-800-561-4012 (toll free in Canada) or 506-453-2296 or you can visit our website at www.gnb.ca/employee_benefits.