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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NURSING HOMES AND INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITIES

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### Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) recently announced that, as of June 30, 2012, there will be significant changes to the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), which will affect the benefits provided to all beneficiaries. The attached notice will be sent to beneficiaries to outline key changes to the program and direct them to the CIC website for additional information on how the changes to IFHP affects them.

History shows that you have been billing services for monthly residential care for one or more IFHP beneficiaries. **Effective June 30, 2012**, residential care will no longer be covered under the IFHP. Beneficiaries will be required to make alternate financial arrangements for the residential care services currently covered by the IFHP or make alternate care arrangements.

For additional information on this and other changes to the Interim Federal Health Program, please visit the CIC website at [www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp).

If you have any questions, please call the Medavie Blue Cross Contact Centre at 1-888-614-1880.





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# NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES

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## **Changes to the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)** **take effect on June 30, 2012**

As a current beneficiary of the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), this notice is to let you know that the Program is changing.

### **What is the IFHP?**

The IFHP provides limited, short-term coverage of health care benefits to:

- protected persons, including resettled refugees,
- refugee claimants,
- rejected refugee claimants, and
- certain other specified groups.

Benefits are only given to those listed above who have no public health insurance or full private insurance.

### **Eligibility and benefits starting June 30, 2012:**

The IFHP has been reformed. As of June 30, 2012, benefits will be reduced for all current and future beneficiaries. Changes will limit both who is eligible for coverage and what services are covered. For example:

- Some beneficiaries will only be covered for doctor and hospital services if those services are needed to prevent or treat a disease posing a risk to public health or a condition of public safety concern.
- Prescription drug benefits are being reduced for all beneficiaries. Vaccines and medication will be covered only where it is needed to prevent or treat a disease posing a risk to public health or a condition of public safety concern.
- Vision care, dental care, devices to assist mobility, home care and long-term care will no longer be covered.

*It is important that you inform yourself on how the changes to the IFHP will affect you.*

### **For more information:**

Visit the CIC website at [www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp). Key information about the changes is currently available. Please note that this information may change at any time and no further notices will be mailed to you. You should check the website to determine your eligibility and the benefits you may be covered for. CIC will update the website when changes are made or where more information becomes available.

You may also call the CIC Call Centre, toll free, at 1-888-242-2100, to get information on the changes or to confirm your current immigration status.