

Nutritional Supplement Benefit

Presentation to Cabinet

Ministry of Human Resources

October 3, 2001

Issue

Nutritional Supplement Benefit for more than 4,000 Disability Benefits recipients with chronic, life-threatening wasting conditions.

History

- Appeals: the only option
 - “Catch-all” clause in Disability Benefits regulations
 - About 500 now receiving appeal awards
-

Current process

- Backlogs and delays
 - Delays affect conditions
 - Costly
 - Unfair
-

Nutritional Supplement Benefit

- Fairer
 - Efficient
 - Effective
 - Streamlines appeal process
-

Nutritional Supplement Benefit

- \$165 for additional nutritional items
 - \$20 for bottled water
 - \$40 for vitamins and minerals
 - Total: \$225 maximum.
-

Who is eligible?

- Severe medical condition causing chronic, progressive health deterioration
 - “Wasting” symptoms
 - Diagnosed by medical practitioner
 - Necessity
 - Imminent danger to life
-

Cost

- About 4,500 people eligible
 - 2001/2002: **\$2.3 million**
 - 2002/2003: **\$7.5 million**
 - Funding available within current budget
-

Implementation

- Benefit available late October
 - Current health allowance recipients:
 - will continue to get allowance, or
 - may apply for benefit
-

Conclusion

- New supplement fair, cost-effective
 - Streamlines process
 - Eliminates waits
 - Relieves pressure on acute care
 - Eases life-threatening conditions
-