

Ministry of Health

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Ministère de la Santé

Sous-ministre adjointe
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August 8, 2019

Martin Boyle
Board Secretary and Chair, Executive Operations Committee
Canadian Association of Financial Institutions in Insurance
200 -411 Richmond Street E.
Toronto ON M5A 3S5

Dear Mr. Boyle:

I am writing to inform you that proposed amendments to Regulation 552 under the **Health Insurance Act** (HIA) to end Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP) coverage for emergency services (arising while outside the country) for Ontarians travelling outside of Canada (OHIP Out of Country (OOC) Travellers Program) have been approved by Cabinet. These regulatory changes will now come into effect on January 1, 2020.

The ministry will continue to reimburse eligible claims (under the existing regulatory criteria) for OOC emergency services rendered up to and including December 31, 2019. Any OOC emergency services rendered on January 1, 2020 onwards will not be eligible for reimbursement. The timeframe to submit eligible claims has not changed and is still 12 months from the date of service. Therefore, eligible OOC claims rendered on December 31, 2019 can be submitted up to December 31, 2020.

I would also like to bring to your attention that starting January 1, 2020, the Ontario Renal Network (ORN) within Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), will be administering a program to help Ontario renal dialysis patients with financial aid for dialysis services when travelling abroad.


I know that your organization and its members share our interest in ensuring that the elimination of OHIP coverage for travellers proceeds with minimum disruption and risk for all stakeholders, including insurance providers and travelling Ontarians. The ministry looks forward to collaborating with your industry during the transition and particularly to underscore for Ontarians the need to purchase travel health insurance when travelling outside of Ontario.

The government press release on the OOC changes can be found here:

<http://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/08/ontario-launching-program-to-fund-out-of-country-dialysis-services.html>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Lynn Guerriero
Assistant Deputy Minister