November 17, 2017

NOTICE RE

CHRONIC CARE CO-PAYMENT CALCULATION
SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

On September 1, 2017, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (“the Ministry”) raised the amount of the “comfort allowance” from $143 to $146. Therefore, patients being charged the chronic care co-payment in hospital were allowed to keep $146 per month.

On October 27, 2017, we discovered that the on-line form had not been updated and requested that the Ministry publish the most current form.

On November 17, 2017, we determined that while the on-line form had been updated and showed the comfort allowance of $146, the automatic calculation had not been amended and was still calculating using the old amount of $143. We advised the Ministry immediately and expect the forms to be corrected.

We recommend that anyone paying the chronic care co-payment since September 1, 2017 verify the calculations to make sure that if they were entitled to a rate reduction, that the monthly comfort allowance of $146 was subtracted, not $143.

People should also be aware that when applying for a reduction of the chronic care co-payment, that the calculation is based upon TAXABLE income, not NET income. If using the notice of assessment this is line 260, NOT line 236. If calculating using other sources of information, this would NOT include GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT (GIS) or GAINS. These sources of income should be EXCLUDED from the chronic care co-payment calculation.