

June 25, 2002

Ministry of Human Resources

## **CHANGES TO THE DENTAL PROGRAM**

### **BACKGROUND**

- The dental program will focus on providing basic dental services to clients who are most in need and least likely to become financially independent.

### **NEW POLICY**

- As of July 2002, basic dental plan coverage, including the same range of services and annual limits, is available for clients who are:
  - dependant children under 19, including those receiving Child in the Home of a Relative assistance and children eligible for dental services under the Healthy Kids program (\$700/year maximum); or
  - persons with a level two disability (\$500/year maximum) and their spouses (\$250/year maximum); or
  - persons with a level one disability (\$250/year maximum), provided all adult family members are classified as level one disability clients; or
  - seniors who were receiving income assistance when they reached age 65 (\$250/year maximum) and their spouses (\$250/year maximum).
- Dental services beyond annual limits will no longer be covered unless services are needed to relieve pain.
- Children and persons with disabilities who require dental treatment in hospital under general anaesthetic will be eligible for an additional \$500 to cover the cost of treatment.
- Persons with a level two disability will keep their dental benefits for the entire family if they, or any family member, leaves income assistance for employment, federal benefits (Old Age Security and Canada Pension Plan), or because they turn 65.
- All other BC Employment and Assistance clients, and individuals receiving hardship assistance, will receive dental services for the relief of pain.

### **WHO IS AFFECTED**

- Employable adult clients, who require dental care after July 1, 2002.

### **WHEN THE CHANGE WILL OCCUR**

July 1, 2002.