

**Backgrounder- Income Assistance Benefit Reviews  
July 31, 2017**

Review	What is the current policy?	What is the outcome of the review?	Why are you making this change?	When does the change come into effect?
Home Repair Benefits	<p>Funds for repairs to a primary residence owned by an income assistance client may be provided for health and safety reasons where insurance is not a resource.</p>	<p>The home repair benefit will be discontinued. Clients who need major home repairs can apply to the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation's Home Repair Program.</p> <p>This benefit is accessed approximately 430 times each year.</p> <p>There are approximately 1,100 clients who are homeowners.</p> <p>The estimated savings for 2017-18 are \$130K. Annualized savings will be approximately \$260K.</p>	<p>Changes are being made to income assistance programs to re-focus them on providing basic benefits for the most vulnerable clients.</p> <p>Income assistance clients may be able to access benefits for home repairs through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation's Emergency Repair Program, which provides a forgivable loan of up to \$12,000 for emergency repair needs. This limit is being increased from \$6,000 effective October 1.</p>	October 1, 2017
Overpayment Recovery Rates	<p>Overpayments are any funds provided to clients in excess of the benefits they are entitled to.</p> <p>Overpayments may occur if a client's circumstances change and retroactive adjustments to benefits are required.</p> <p>In most cases, minimum overpayment recovery rates in SAP and SAID are \$15 per month. Recovery rates are larger for clients who receive larger SAP or SAID benefits.</p> <p>The flat overpayment recovery rate in TEA is \$20 per month.</p>	<p>Overpayment recovery rates will be increased by \$10 per month.</p> <p>This change will impact approximately 6,250 SAP clients, 3,450 SAID beneficiaries and 600 TEA clients.</p> <p>The estimated savings in 2017-18 are \$600K. Annualized savings will be approximately \$1.2M.</p>	<p>Overpayment recovery provisions in SAP have not been updated since 1989.</p> <p>This change will help to ensure that programs are sustainable and that the Ministry is a strong steward of public funds.</p>	October 1, 2017

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<p>3,000-Plus Calorie Diet Benefit</p>	<p>Special diet benefits are available as follows with a medical form completed by a health professional.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="397 456 975 906"> <thead> <tr> <th>Special Diet Rates</th> <th>Benefit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Calories (all age groups) – for diabetes, weight reduction and modified fats (low cholesterol):</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1900 - 2499</td> <td>\$27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2500 - 2999</td> <td>\$42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3000 +</td> <td>\$75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dialysis</td> <td>\$35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Supplements</td> <td>actual cost</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High Protein Diet - for acute conditions where the treatment is intensive and for a specified time period.</td> <td>\$53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pregnancy or Lactation</td> <td>\$48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HIV or AIDS (to include food supplements)</td> <td>\$140</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Alternatively, actual costs established by a dietician may be provided.</p>	Special Diet Rates	Benefit	Calories (all age groups) – for diabetes, weight reduction and modified fats (low cholesterol):		1900 - 2499	\$27	2500 - 2999	\$42	3000 +	\$75	Dialysis	\$35	Food Supplements	actual cost	High Protein Diet - for acute conditions where the treatment is intensive and for a specified time period.	\$53	Pregnancy or Lactation	\$48	HIV or AIDS (to include food supplements)	\$140	<p>The existing 3,000-plus calorie diet benefit for diabetes, weight reduction and modified fats (low cholesterol) will no longer be offered. Benefits for high-calorie diets over 2,999 calories will be updated to focus on clients' specific medical conditions and dietary needs, as identified by a health professional.</p> <p>This change will impact approximately 760 SAID beneficiaries and 600 SAP clients.</p> <p>The estimated savings in 2017-18 are \$612K. Annualized savings will be approximately \$1.2M.</p>	<p>The Ministry is moving toward focusing special diet benefits to address specific conditions, as opposed to offering calorie-based diets.</p> <p>The benefits for special diets have not been updated in many years. It is important that benefits continue to be based on evidence and best practices.</p> <p>Clients and beneficiaries can access other special diet provisions.</p>	<p>October 1, 2017</p>
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