

## **Mandatory Special Necessities Forms (Medical Transportation or “TTC Allowance”) – Tips for Health Providers**

*Compiled by Health Providers Against Poverty (HPAP) – October 2006*

### **What are Mandatory Special Necessities?**

In addition to covering medical supplies, these necessities include medical transportation. An Ontario health provider is expected to assess their clients' requirements for funds needed for transportation, whether via taxi or TTC. Many clients have mobility and access issues which would be alleviated by the ability to purchase public transportation passes or tickets, or to enable them to take taxis to appointments.

The legislation is open to some interpretation regarding what types of visits are eligible for this supplement. If clients attend appointments with a social component, such as an art group intended for people with mental health issues, transportation back and forth is eligible to be paid by social assistance, as long as the person's health provider includes it on the form. The directive specifies that while transportation costs will not be provided for any program “solely” of a recreational or social nature, if the person's health provider deems attendance therapeutic or important for the person's health, it should be eligible. In particular, programs funded by the Ministry of Health should be eligible since these are unlikely to be “purely” recreational.

### **What Health Providers Against Poverty (HPAP) is doing:**

HPAP members have been lobbying to increase social assistance rates by highlighting the research linking poverty and health to government officials and bureaucrats, to the public through the media and to health provider colleagues and professional bodies.

### **What health providers can do:**

Please fill out the Mandatory Special Necessities Form by filling in all the person's health related appointments and the number of visits per month:

#### **For example:**

- all appointments with a doctor or nurse, including specialists and procedures
- all appointments with allied health professionals including lab work (eg liver tests, glucose monitoring, etc.), dental, chiropractic, chiropody, physiotherapy, occupational therapy
- all regular visits needed for the client's well being, including those with social workers, nurses, counselors, or drop in visits to other agencies
- any food bank programs or regularly accessed meal programs
- all addiction/harm reduction programs accessed by the client, including Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous meetings
- any social/recreational programs with a therapeutic component (eg reducing social isolation) including art, music, gardening or other social/drop in programs

By signing the forms, the health provider is indicating that she/he will continue to monitor the patient's progress while they are in the program.

***If you wish more information about Health Providers Against Poverty, contact us at [hpagainstopoverty@gmail.com](mailto:hpagainstopoverty@gmail.com)***