

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health System Strategy  
and Policy Division

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**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**

Sous-ministre adjoint  
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de la santé

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**DATE:** December 13, 2013

**TO:** Gerald Hartman  
President, Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association

**FROM:** Vasanthi Srinivasan  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health System Strategy and Policy Division

**SUBJECT:** Ontario Temporary Health Program

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I am writing today to inform you that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) will be launching the Ontario Temporary Health Program for refugee claimants on January 1, 2014. The Ontario Temporary Health Program will provide short-term primary and acute care, as well as some medication coverage to select refugee claimant groups no longer covered by the Interim Federal Health Program or another government program.

As you know, in June 2012 the federal government unilaterally made changes to the Interim Federal Health Program as part of broad changes to the Canadian Refugee Claims system. In doing so, it significantly reduced, and in many cases eliminated essential and urgent health care coverage for many refugee claimants.

The new Ontario Temporary Health Program for refugee claimants is intended to address many of the gaps in coverage created by these changes.

Coverage will not exceed that provided to Ontario residents covered through the provincial OHIP program. It will provide for most services received in a hospital, primary and specialist care, laboratory and diagnostic services, as well as medications equivalent to the Ontario Drug Benefit formulary.

Refugee claimants will be subject to a three-month wait period with the exception of:

- Children under the age of 18
- Women requiring perinatal and prenatal care
- Individuals with a life threatening condition, as defined through the federal program

The MOHLTC will be working with a third party provider, Medavie Blue Cross, to administer the program. Because the Interim Federal Health Program is also administered through Medavie Blue Cross, the process for claims submission will be consistent with the process used for the federal program, with the exception of the requirement to obtain patient consent with every claim. The Ontario program has been established in an effort to create a seamless process for both providers and patients.

In the coming weeks, you will receive more detailed information about provider registration, approval and eligibility processes, claims systems and payment mechanisms directly from Medavie Blue Cross.

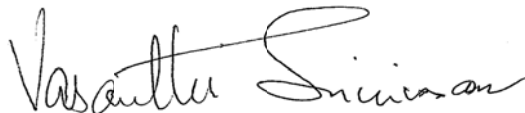
We hope that you can share this information with your membership through your regular communication channels. Medavie Blue Cross will also be informing Ontario providers registered with the Interim Federal Health Program.

Should you have any questions, please contact Medavie Blue Cross at: 1-888-614-1880,

or

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care: Fides Coloma at 416-327-8895 or by email at [fides.coloma@ontario.ca](mailto:fides.coloma@ontario.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vasanthi Srinivasan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vasanthi Srinivasan