

Hill, Jody (MOHLTC)

From: Hill, Jody (MOHLTC)
Sent: February 7, 2014 10:42 AM
To: Pearce, Jeffrey (MOHLTC)
Cc: Lee, Kevin (MOHLTC); @MOH-L-CMD Public Affairs and Communications Support (PACS); Greene, Diane (MOHLTC); Monaghan, Barry (MOHLTC)
Subject: MO Request - Birth Tourism
Importance: High

Q. If a mother comes to Ontario to give birth here is that covered by OHIP?

A. The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is a universal, publicly funded system available to all eligible Ontario residents.

Every resident of Ontario who meets the eligibility requirements as set out in Regulation 552 of the Health Insurance Act is entitled to Ontario health insurance coverage.

To be eligible for Ontario health insurance coverage, a person must:

- have Canadian Citizenship or other immigration status as listed in the regulation; and
- make his/her primary place of residence in Ontario; and
- be physically present in Ontario no less than 153 days in any given 12-month period.

Visitors are not eligible for OHIP insured services. If a woman whose primary place of residence is outside of the province gives birth in Ontario the health services provided to both the mother and the child are not OHIP insured.

Regulation 552 requires that most new and returning residents to Ontario serve a three month waiting period before their OHIP coverage begins.

Q. Are your areas aware of any work ongoing with the federal government? Is the Ontario government doing anything with respect to this?

In March 2012 the federal Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism wrote to Ontario's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (and to other provincial and territorial counterparts) to seek Ontario's views on "the practice of foreign national women coming to Canada on a short visit in order to give birth and secure Canadian citizenship for their child." The letter requested Ontario's views on this matter, any available data on parental status in Canada at the time of a child's birth and participation in a consultation with the federal department. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) officials took part in a consultation led by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in the summer and fall of 2012 although at the time of discussions, the provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) was the lead for Ontario.

MCI ultimately responded to the federal minister's letter on September 6, 2012 indicating that Ontario had identified a number of significant policy and program issues with CIC's implementation scenarios for aligning Canada's birth on soil policies with other jurisdictions, and signalling that because there was insufficient evidence to suggest that birth tourism was placing an appreciable demand on Ontario's economy, Ontario did not support the proposed changes.

Q. Are you aware of the minister commenting on this in the past?

A. No

Jody Hill
Executive Assistant to the Director
Health Services Branch 370 Select Dr. Kingston On K7M 8Y4
Ph: 613-536-3029 Cell: 613-539-7879 Fax: 613-536-3188

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

In March 2012, the Federal Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Refugees (CIR) visited Ontario's Minister of Children and Family Services (MCFES) and several other agencies to seek Ontario's views on the process of implementing a new system in Canada as a first step towards a new health and social services system for Canada. The visit represented Ontario's views on the matter, and was a significant milestone in the process of a new system with participation in a consultation with the federal government. MCFES and Long Term Care (MCFES-LTC) officials took part in a consultation led by the CIR and Immigration Canada (CIC). The summer and fall of 2012 although at the time of the visit, the provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) was the lead for Ontario.

MCI ultimately responded to the federal government's offer on September 5, 2012 indicating that Ontario had identified a number of significant policy and program issues with CIC's implementation including the ongoing Canada's role in new policies with other jurisdictions, and arguing that because there was insufficient evidence to suggest that this would be placing an appropriate demand on Ontario's resources, Ontario did not support the proposed changes.

Q. Are you aware of the release concerning the