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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Ms. Pamela Isfeld  
President, Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers  
412 - 47 Clarence Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9K1

Dear Ms. Isfeld,

Thank you for your letter dated May 17, 2010, addressed to Mr. Michel Pinard, Manager of the Public Service Health Program Overseas.

Since the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Health Canada (HC), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), HC has not been directly involved with the operational delivery of services to Canadian Foreign Services personnel and their dependants deployed abroad.

In 1993, the resources (both personnel and financial) were transferred to CIC for the purpose of operating the Public Service Health Program Overseas.

Please see the following responses to questions you posed in your letter.

**What services does the PSHP Overseas currently provide to employees and their dependants posted outside of Canada?**

Health Canada Public Service Health Program Overseas role is to provide general advice in regards to policies, protocols, procedures and advisories, and conducting posting related health evaluations at our National Capital Region (NCR) Clinic in Ottawa. Medical operational aspects of the Public Service Health Program Overseas have been the responsibility of CIC on behalf of HC, while the administrative operational aspects reside with DFAIT which is responsible for the employees overseas.

**Who is currently delivering these services if CIC MOFs are no longer participating?  
How do employees access these services?**

Since the 1993 MOU, HC has had neither the role nor resources to take on the delivery of operational services overseas.

CIC has announced that as of June 30th, 2010, it will no longer provide access to medications, vaccines and medical supplies through an on-line ordering system. The reason cited is there are liabilities surrounding the manner in which the ordering process is carried out, the non-supervision of mini-clinic nurses, the dispensing of medications and concerns related to the administration of vaccines. CIC will, however, continue to provide the other services agreed upon in the *Interim Guidelines for Regional Medical Officers* of January 6<sup>th</sup> 2007, until further notice.

**What is the status of the review of PSHP services? Is there an opportunity or mechanism for bargaining agents representing affected employees to be consulted or provide input?**

The review of the PSHP is ongoing and comments from bargaining agents are welcome and can be forwarded to Christina Dowler at TBS. She will keep you apprised of any key development.

As stated previously, the Public Service Health Program Overseas component of HC is only a small portion of the overall overseas health program. Our advisory services remain in place at this time.

We regret this decision to withdraw the above services, and we are looking at options. We continue to be available to discuss this with our partners.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Dacre  
Director, Public Service Health Program  
Emergency Preparedness and Occupational Health Directorate

CC. Lise Scott, Director General, Health Management Branch, CIC  
Claude Houde, Director, Labour Relations and OHS, DFAIT  
Christina Dowler, Senior Program/Policy Analyst, TBS