

9 September 2021

Dear CSIL Employer:

On April 1, 2020, the Ministry of Health (MoH) approved temporary amendments to CSIL policy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MoH extended these temporary policy amendments twice, with the last extension expiring on June 30, 2021 when BC's State of Emergency was lifted. A ninety (90) day period until September 30, 2021 was provided for CSIL employers to transition back to policy. Today, Health Authorities received a further update. Given the ongoing pandemic and the challenges that CSIL employers continue to experience in maintaining continuity of care and safety, the MoH is re-instating these temporary policy amendments until April 1, 2022, with a ninety (90) day transition period until July 1, 2022. The time-limited exceptions that pertain to CSIL are:

- **POLICY:** In the current CSIL Expense Guidelines, sick pay is listed as an optional expense at 2-3% per year, to a maximum of 5 days per year. This pay must be expensed from the overall funding that is provided to CSIL employers.

***Exception:** Health Authorities to allow a time-limited exception and permit CSIL employers to allocate surplus funding toward two (2) weeks of pay for CSIL employees required to self-quarantine. If a CSIL employer lacks adequate surplus to cover the payroll burden, Health Authorities will provide temporary financial relief on a case-by-case basis, with adequate justification and supporting documentation from CSIL employers.*

- **POLICY:** CSIL employers are responsible for creating a respite plan and a backup service plan to ensure care needs are met on a continuous basis. Health Authorities may authorize home support services from an agency in exceptional circumstances, such as short-term acute illness, to augment CSIL funding.

***Exception:** The MoH allows Health Authorities to suspend the requirement to obtain prior approval to use agencies for emergency staffing.*

- **POLICY:** Current policy state that an immediate family member cannot be paid to provide care for a client unless an exception is approved by the Health Authority.

***Exception:** The MoH allows CSIL employers to temporarily pay immediate family members (including an immediate family member who has been appointed power of attorney or representative of the CSIL employer) to provide care, without the requirement to obtain prior approval, if their supply of regular staff and back up care plan staff has been impacted. This is recommended for a time-limited duration, during the COVID-19 outbreak. CSIL employers must continue to inform case managers of any changes in care, including the hiring of immediate family members. To mitigate risks associated with hiring immediate family members, Health Authorities are encouraged to assess the quality of the services and compliance with the CSIL Contract Template as per Section 12.4.*

- **POLICY:** CSIL Expense Guidelines allow employees to expense \$20-40 per month for supplies required for universal precautions and safety such as disposable gloves, masks, and hand sanitizers.

***Exception:** CSIL employers will temporarily be permitted to expense greater than \$40 per month toward universal precautions and safety. If need, Health Authorities will provide additional funding for gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer on a case-by-case basis, to help preserve the health care supply chain of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), with adequate justification provided by CSIL employers.*

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 604-362-7148.



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