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TO: Ontario AIDS Service Organizations

By FAX

Special Diet Allowance Update

The Special Diet Allowance is a mandatory benefit for eligible recipients of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program social assistance. As many of you know, the provincial government changed the Special Diet Allowance program in December 2005. Everyone who was receiving a Special Diet Allowance has had or is having their diet reviewed.

There are special provisions to assist people with medical conditions which may cause weight loss, including people living with HIV. There has been a lot of confusion about these diets.

Anyone who has been receiving a Special Diet Allowance as a result of weight loss or to assist in maintaining weight should continue to receive at least that same amount for that diet.

We are still seeing cases where people have received decisions to incorrectly reduce their Special Diet Allowances. The incorrect decisions may result from the review process, from annual reviews or from a review when someone has been transferred from Ontario Works to the Ontario Disability Support Program.

If any of your clients have had a reduction in their Special Diet Allowance in the past 18 months, please ask that they call our office as soon as possible. We can then discuss their eligibility and, if there appears to be an incorrect decision, we can assist with requesting an Internal Review and extension of time as needed.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call our office.