

August 31, 2011

Hello HIV services colleagues,

RE: Special Diet Allowance and HIV – Important Update

Please see the attached important update about the Ontario Disability Support Program **Special Diet Allowance and people living with HIV**. We want to ensure that this information is widely distributed, so please accept our apologies if you have already received it.

Please immediately refer to HALCO all people living with HIV who have had their Special Diet Allowance reduced or eliminated, no matter what the reason was for the reduction or elimination.

It is vital that people living with HIV contact HALCO as soon as they find out that their Special Diet Allowance (SDA) has been reduced or has ended because **there is a 30 day time limit to challenge ODSP decisions**. People should contact HALCO even if it has been more than 30 days because steps may still be taken to challenge the decisions. They can call HALCO and ask to speak with the caseworker on intake: 416-340-7790 or toll-free 1-888-705-8889. HALCO provides intake for new inquiries on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This information is also on the ***What's New*** and ***Publications*** pages of our website: www.halco.org. Our earlier *Special Diet Allowance Changes Info Sheet* and our *letter for Health Professionals about the Special Diet Allowance changes* are also on our website.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services website includes “What health care professionals need to know”:

www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/social/special_diet_health_care.aspx

If you have any questions, please call us during our intake hours and ask to speak with the caseworker on intake.

Thank you.