December 16, 2008

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson
Medical Officer of Health
City of Hamilton
Public Health & Social Services Department
1 Hughson Street North, 4th Floor
Hamilton ON L8R 3L5

Dear Dr. Richardson:

The Ministry of Health Promotion is proceeding with the expansion of the Children In Need Of Treatment (CINOT) program to improve oral health among Ontario's low-income families and their children.

As part of the government's poverty reduction strategy for low-income Ontarians included in the 2008 Budget, this important health safety net is designed to help ensure that no child goes without essential/emergency dental care as a result of an inability to pay for dental services.

The program expansion includes the following changes:

- An increase in coverage from the current maximum eligibility age of 13 or the last day of the Grade 8 school year (whichever is later) to a child's 18th birthday;
- General anaesthetic coverage for children four-years-old and under is increased to children up to their 18th birthday; and
- An addition of the new specialty of Dental Anaesthetists.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the City of Toronto have reviewed and expressed their support for these changes. The current CINOT program will continue to be cost shared 75/25 per cent with municipalities, and the province will provide 100 per cent funding of the treatment costs (i.e., payments made to practitioners) for the CINOT expansion (i.e., children aged 14 to 17 years) for calendar year 2009. Cost-sharing for the expansion will be implemented January 1, 2010.

Allocations were based on the number of children (0 - 17 years) living in low income households, as defined by Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs, in the health unit jurisdiction. I am pleased to inform you that your CINOT expansion allocation for 2009 is $857,409.
Dr. Elizabeth Richardson

This funding will be electronically allocated to your health unit bi-weekly on a separate budget line with the following note “CINOT Expansion, 2009 calendar year”. Bi-monthly electronic deposits will be made in the same manner as health unit global budgets are deposited.

The 100 per cent expenditures will be tracked using the Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS). OHISS is being updated to allow the Budget Report to be split by age so that separate reports can be run for the cost-shared monies (0 -13 years) and the 100 per cent funded monies (14 – 17 years).

Settlement for the 100 per cent monies will be done in the same manner and timeframe as for your health unit’s global budgets for the mandatory programs, except that the settlement process will be managed by the Ministry of Health Promotion instead of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. As with global funding, Q3 and Q4 reports (October, 2009 and January, 2010 respectively) will be required.

The Ministry is notifying dental stakeholder groups and treatment providers about the expansion. In addition, posters and fact cards (in 18 languages) are being produced for health units to use in promotional work with high schools and organizations who provide support for low-income families. An order form, for health unit use, has been posted to the OHISS Collaboration site.

The Ministry of Health Promotion recognizes dental care as an important part of overall health. As our key partner in the delivery of the CINOT program, we look forward to your continued cooperation to ensure that these important dental services are delivered to children and families in need.

If you need any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Sandra Bennett, our Senior Dental Consultant, at 416-327-7385 or by e-mail at sandy.bennett@ontario.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Lam
Assistant Deputy Minister

c: Dr. David Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Françoise Bouchard, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Cynthia Morton, Deputy Minister, MHP