

May 15, 2014

Hon. Hugh J. Flemming Q.C.
Minister of Health and Attorney General
Hugh.Flemming@gnb.ca

Re: Preventive visits for travelers

Dear Hon. Hugh J. Flemming Q.C.,

The New Brunswick College of Family Physicians recommends that preventive visits for the purposes of travel are covered by Medicare New Brunswick. At the present time, this service is listed in the schedule 2 of the Regulation under the Medical Service Payment Act as an excluded service.¹

As family physicians, we recognize the importance of taking preventive measures before travelling abroad to protect oneself against many preventable travel-related illnesses. The government of Canada also recognises this may be important as they recommend that you contact a doctor, nurse or health care provider, or visit a travel health clinic, preferably six weeks before you travel.²

This approach would help in lowering provincial spending, as if the patients' access to health care is compromised prior to travel, it will force patients who become sick during travel to revert to more expensive resources (ie: visit emergency or hospitalization) upon their return to New Brunswick. By utilizing a preventive approach there will be a positive impact on public health as it will decrease the possibility of bringing diseases back that could affect the health of other New Brunswickers.

We would appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Marc André Doucet, MD, CCFP
President

cc: Mr Donald Arseneault, MLA, Health critic
Dr Lynn Hansen, NBMS President

¹ <http://www.gnb.ca/0394/pdf-en/physiciansmanual-e.pdf>

² <http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/publications/well-on-your-way>