

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health
277 Victoria Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

January 31, 2011


Dear Dr. McKeown,

I am writing in strong support of your recommendations regarding elimination of the OHIP wait period for landed immigrants. It is my firm opinion that a three month wait for medical insurance is unacceptable and elimination of this arbitrary time period is imperative, not necessarily limited to but especially for people needing childhood vaccinations, maternal and child care, and assessment and treatment of infectious diseases in order to ensure that secondary spread of these diseases to others in the community does not occur.

With respect to this latter situation, for example, we know that new immigrants on medical surveillance are required to present for a medical exam within 30 days of landing, but don't have OHIP for 90 days; not surprisingly many delay their assessment, sometimes resulting in delayed diagnosis of active tuberculosis. This leads to others in the community being potentially exposed and unnecessarily infected with a serious illness, and one which is costly to treat as well as burdensome from an adverse quality of life perspective.

I commend you for advancing the case regarding this important public health and humanitarian issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "I. G. Levy".

I. G. Levy, *MBBCh, MSc, FRCPC, FACPM*
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