

## **Continuation of Coverage While on Leave or Sabbatical Effective May 1, 2008**

If you will be traveling outside of Canada for an extended period of time it is your responsibility to ensure that your OHIP coverage is kept in-force. Details on OHIP coverage while travelling outside of Canada are found below.

Continuation of extended health coverage while you are on sabbatical requires that your premium contributions are maintained. Continuation of coverage also requires prior approval from our benefit plan insurers.

Huron requires the following information to gain this approval:

- Date Sabbatical Starts
- Date Sabbatical Ends
  - Expected return to work date
- If traveling outside of Canada for an extended period the expected country or countries of travel.
- Anticipated length of stay in the country/countries noted above (total, combined duration only)
- Will family members, covered under our plans, be traveling with you?

This information will be provided to our benefit plan insurers for approval and subsequent documentation. Ideally, the request for continuation of coverage should be submitted no less than 30 days in advance of your departure. The CAO can notify the carrier.

Should you wish to purchase your own, additional Out of Country medical coverage there are a number of sources available to you. The Williamson Group, our insurance broker, at 800 265 9973 can be of assistance.

## How long can I be absent from Canada and still maintain my OHIP?

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ohip/travel.html>

You may be outside of Canada for a period of 212 days in any 12 month period and still maintain your OHIP coverage.

## How long do I have to stay in Ontario immediately after I apply for coverage?

If you have moved to Ontario from outside Canada, or if you have moved from another Canadian province or territory and were not insured by that province or territory's health plan, you must be present for 153 days in the first 183 days immediately following the date you establish residency in Ontario (i.e., you cannot be absent for more than 30 days during the first 6 months of residency in Ontario).

## What if I'm going to be absent from Canada for a long period of time?

If you are out of the country for more than 212 days in any 12-month period, you may still be eligible for continuous Ontario Health Insurance Plan eligibility if you are away for one of the following reasons:

- study outside of Canada
- work outside of Canada
- missionary work outside of Canada
- vacation or other reason outside of Canada

To be eligible for continuous OHIP eligibility during one of these extended absences you must first have been physically present in Ontario for at least 153 days in the 12-month period, for 2 consecutive years before the absence (refer to section above "[What does it mean to be "eligible for continuous OHIP eligibility?"](#)).

## How do I apply for an extended absence?

To confirm your continuous OHIP eligibility during your longer absence, write or visit your [local OHIP office](#) before you leave Ontario to apply for an absence.

You may need to show a document explaining the reason for your absence as required by the ministry; for example, a letter from a school, employer or a sponsoring religious organization. You should telephone the ministry prior to your visit to confirm the require documentation.

## How long will OHIP provide me with continuous eligibility during an extended absence?

Lengths of extended absences vary depending on the reason for the absence.

| Reason                         | Continuous OHIP Eligibility                          |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Study Outside Canada           | Duration of full-time academic enrolment (unlimited) |
| Work Outside Canada            | Five year terms                                      |
| Missionary Work Outside Canada | Duration of missionary activities (unlimited)        |
| Vacation/Other Reason          | Up to 2 years in a lifetime                          |

Extended absences are processed for minimum increments of one year.

If you are away for more than 212 days in any 12-month period but do not use the full year provided for your extended absence, the ministry will not add the remaining time to another absence. If, however, you are away from Ontario on an approved absence, you may be eligible to remain away for a longer period and still maintain continuous OHIP eligibility. For more information, contact your [local OHIP office](#).

### **Are longer absences permitted for my family?**

In most cases, your spouse or same-sex partner and dependent children under nineteen years of age are permitted to be out-of-Ontario to accompany you on your extended absence for study, work or missionary work, and still maintain OHIP coverage. They must, however, notify the ministry separately if their absence is for a vacation or any other reason.