



DEC 13 2017

MR. R.J SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH**Oral Question 890-18(2): Prescription Drug Coverage for Mental Illness**

This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on September 27, 2017, regarding Prescription Drug Coverage for Mental Illness.

I have previously indicated in the House that a variety of mental health conditions are included in the Extended Health Benefits for Specified Disease Conditions program under the umbrella of "Chronic psychosis".

Specific chronic psychosis conditions covered are listed in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), a code system used by physicians and other healthcare providers to classify and code all diagnoses, symptoms and procedures. At the time that each specified disease was added to the list in the Government of the Northwest Territories Policy, the Health and Social Services Medical Advisor determined the specific ICD codes that pertained to each specified disease.

The specific ICD9 codes are currently not posted publicly on the website as it is responsibility of the physician to complete the clinical review and determination for each patient. As Minister, I am not in a position to provide on what sub-categories of medical conditions are aligned with the ICD codes, however, if a specific concern comes to your attention, I can forward it to the Department for follow-up.

Thank you.

Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs