

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 51

Published by Medical Services Branch (MSB) at 306-787-3454

October 1, 2019

IMPORTANT HEALTH WEBSITE INFORMATION

All Medical Services Branch Payment Schedules, Newsletters, Operations Bulletins, Billing Bulletins, billing information sheets and forms are available at:

<https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/resources/establish-operate-practice/Pages/Physicians.aspx>

PAPER COPIES OF THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE, BILLING BULLETIN AND OPERATIONS BULLETIN

Medical Services Branch does not provide paper copies of the Physician Payment Schedule, the Billing Bulletin or the Operation's Bulletin. The Physicians' Newsletter will continue to be mailed out. These documents can be found at the above link.

BILLING RESOURCES

There are new billing resources available on the website. These documents will be provided to all new physicians upon registering with Medical Services Branch. They are also available for download or viewing at the above link. They cover topics such as physician billing obligations, documentation requirements, payment integrity (audit), requesting changes to the Payment Schedule, and the Joint Medical Professional Review Committee.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter are **effective October 1, 2019**. Software vendors have been provided with the updated information. Please contact your vendor, if necessary, to make sure they have updated your system to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately.

ALL PHYSICIANS REQUIRED TO BILL ELECTRONICALLY

All physicians are required to submit their claims electronically to Medical Services Branch. Information on the options available to physicians can be provided when physicians are initially set-up for billing purposes or by contacting MSB.

ACTION REQUIRED – PHYSICIANS/CLINICS BILLING SOFTWARE

As outlined in the Physician Direct Payment Agreement, payment for services submitted is made in accordance with the Physician Payment Schedule applicable to the service on the date provided. It is imperative that your billing software is utilizing the most up to date rate file. The new October 1, 2019, rate file has been provided to all software vendors and is posted on the Internet Claims Submission (ICS) website for download. Please contact your software vendor, if necessary, to apply the update to your application to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE MODERNIZATION (PSM)

Payment Schedule Modernization is the first ever comprehensive review of the Payment Schedule for Insured Services Provided by a Physician (the Payment Schedule is a legacy document built upon a period spanning over 50+ years).

PSM is a multi-year project, jointly administered by the Ministry of Health (Ministry) and the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) with the mandate of updating the fee codes in the Physician Payment Schedule using the principles of patient-centered care, appropriateness, and fairness.

Modernization is **revenue neutral**, with any potential savings to be reinvested into the Payment Schedule.

All changes to items in the Payment Schedule recommended by the PSM working group are vetted through the Payment Schedule Review Committee's (PSRC), a joint Ministry-SMA committee, with final approval by the Minister of Health.

The following sections have had fee codes modernized in the 2018 and/or 2019 Payment Schedule releases:

General Services	Internal Medicine
Psychiatry	Plastic Surgery
General Surgery	Diagnostic Ultrasound
Ophthalmology	Neurosurgery
Family Practice	Obstetrics and Gynecology

The Ministry and the SMA have been meeting directly with physician sections to share perspectives and begin advancing PSM items, with potential implementation of several items in the April 1, 2020 Payment Schedule release. If you would like further information on PSM and/or would like to become involved, please contact the SMA.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2019**Explanatory Codes**

Revision	Page 39	AG	Newborn child
New	Page 39	AK	Services involving clinical education by an NP
Revision	Page 40	AM	Validation renewal stickers returned
Revision	Page 40	AO	Coverage has been terminated
Revision	Page 40	AR	Patient not registered for coverage
New	Page 53	KI	Preoperative assessments (15B)
New	Page 56	QE	Incorrect service code
Revision	Page 56	RE	Time-of-day premiums
Revision	Page 58	RM	Monthly methadone/suboxone stipends (60B-62B)

SECTION A – General Services

New	Page 68	137A	Percutaneous intravenous central catheter (PICC)
------------	---------	------	--

SECTION B– General Practice

Revision	Page 101	60B-62B	Monthly methadone/suboxone stipends (update)
New	Page 106	163B	Advanced Primary Health Care for Pediatric Patients – Psychiatric Care, base
New	Page 106	164B	Advanced Primary Health Care for Pediatric Patients – Psychiatric Care, add

SECTION C – Pediatrics

Revision	Page 107	13C	Extended/Complex Pediatric Consultation (policy revision)
-----------------	----------	-----	---

SECTION E - Psychiatry

Revision	Page 123	9E	Adult Consultations (rate increase only)
Revision	Page 123	10E	Child Consultation (rate increase and policy revision)
Revision	Page 127	38E, 39E	Psychotherapy/psychiatric counseling (rate increase only)
Revision	Page 128	50E	Psychological testing, simple (rate decrease only)
Revision	Page 128	51E	Psychological testing, complex (policy revision/update)
Revision	Page 129	100E, 101E	Psychiatric care (rate increase only)
Revision	Page 130	110E, 111E	Psychiatric care (rate increase only)

SECTION L – General Surgery

New	Page 193	701L	Surgical debridement
New	Page 193	702L	Surgical debridement
New	Page 193	703L	Surgical debridement
New	Page 193	710L	Split thickness skin grafts
New	Page 193	711L	Split thickness skin grafts
New	Page 193	712L	Split thickness skin grafts

SECTION N – Plastic Surgery

Revision	Page 223	100N	Split thickness grafts (policy revision)
Revision	Page 223	103N	Split thickness grafts (policy revision)
Revision	Page 223	105N	Split thickness grafts (policy revision)
Revision	Page 223	107N	Split thickness grafts (policy revision)
Revision	Page 223	109N	Split thickness grafts (policy revision)
Revision	Page 223	111N	Split thickness grafts (policy revision)

SECTION P – Obstetrics and Gynecology

New	Page 239	351P	Management of 2nd trimester therapeutic medical termination of pregnancy
------------	----------	------	--

SECTION R – Urology

New	Page 252	63R	Insertion of penile prosthesis
------------	----------	-----	--------------------------------