

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 50

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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.

NEW 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 April 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 April 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.

All changes to items in the Payment Schedule recommended by the PSM working group are subject to the Payment Schedule Review Committee's (PSRC) approval.

The following sections had fee codes modernized in the October 1, 2018 and/or April 1, 2019 Payment Schedule releases:

- General Services
- Family Practice
- Plastic Surgery
- Ophthalmology

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 October 1, 2019 Payment Schedule release. If you would like further information on PSM and/or would like to become involved, please contact the SMA.

BLEPHAROPLASTIES – NO LONGER REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL

Please be advised that blepharoplasty services no longer require prior approval and MSB will not provide denial or approval letters after April 1, 2019. Physicians must bill according to the policy and criteria as outlined in the Physician Payment Schedule on page 267.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2019**General**

Technical Components: All technical component service codes have been updated to reference the "Services Supervised by a Physician" section and the "Definitions" section, item 19.

Revision	Page 11	Definitions	Allied Health Care Personnel
Revision	Page 29	Item 13	Services Not Insured by the Ministry of Health, penile implants removed from the list.

Explanatory Codes

Revision	Page 42	BU	Surcharges (add 207B, delete 492N/493N)
Revision	Page 45	DF	Payable once every 90 days (add 207B)
Revision	Page 49	FH	Technical Components
New	Page 50	GC	Medical Consultant Information
New	Page 57	RT	Routine Audit and Recovery – Technical Components

SECTION A – General Services

Revision	Page 77		Surcharge policy (add 57B, 206B, 207B; delete 492N/493N)
Revision	Page 79		Pediatric age and weight supplements (clarification)
Revision	Page 81		Out-of-Hours premiums (add 207B, delete 492N/493N)
New	Page 86	708A-710A	Redvers added to Category A
Deletion	Page 87	714A-716A	Redvers deleted from Category B

SECTION B– General Practice

Revision	Page 99	40B/41B	Third party billing, clarification
New	Page 106	207B	HIV/AIDS – Primary Care Management

SECTION D – Internal Medicine

Revision	Page 118	610-613D	Spirometry Entitlement (clarification)
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SECTION N – Plastic Surgery

Moved	Page 221	Preamble	Surgery of Appearance –moved to S Section
Revision	Page 227	Grafts a) b)	Graft preamble
Deletion	Page 230	273N	By transfer flaps of tarso conjunctiva from opposing eyelid
Deletion	Page 230	274N	By transfer flaps of tarso conjunctiva from opposing eyelid
Moved	Page 230	276N	Blepharoplasty – moved to Section S
Moved	Page 230	277N	Blepharoplasty – moved to Section S
Deletion	Page 231	293N	Regional -- cheeks, chin, forehead or elsewhere
Deletion	Page 231	304N	Segmental nasal resection
Deletion	Page 231	324N	Repair of cleft lip by Abbe flap in two stages
Deletion	Page 231	334N	Mandibular prognathism and micrognathism
Deletion	Page 231	335N	Mandibular prognathism and micrognathism
Deletion	Page 231	390N	Subcutaneous mastectomy for fibrocystic disease
Deletion	Page 231	391N	Subcutaneous mastectomy for fibrocystic disease
Deletion	Page 233	492N	Abrasive Surgery, facial resurfacing
Deletion	Page 233	493N	Abrasive Surgery, facial resurfacing

SECTION S – Ophthalmology

New	Page 267	61S	Blepharoplasty
Revision	Page 267	62S	Blepharoplasty
Revision	Page 267	276S	Blepharoplasty – moved from Section N (new policy)
Revision	Page 267	277S	Blepharoplasty – moved from Section N (new policy)