

Billing Information Sheet – For Physicians

Referrals Within Canada – Patient Coverage

April 20, 2022

Coverage Overview:

Within the **publicly funded** healthcare system, the Ministry of Health (Ministry) will cover the cost of most medically necessary physician and hospital services outside of the province through the **Inter-Provincial Reciprocal Billing Agreement (IRBA)**. To confirm if costs can be billed through IRBA, you or your patient must contact the office of the provider in the other province.

Before leaving the province, your patient can confirm that their health card is valid and will be honored in the province they are traveling to, by contacting eHealth Saskatchewan.

The costs of travel, accommodation and meals to access medical services are not insured under Saskatchewan's health system.

Prior Approval Coverage:

Services not fully covered under the IRBA, may be considered for cost coverage in certain circumstances for specific conditions when a **written request is provided to the Ministry of Health BEFORE** the patient receives any services. The written request, including costs, must:

- be received from a Saskatchewan specialist in the same field of practice as the required service;
- describe the circumstances of the case, including why the service(s) are medically required and why it must be obtained outside of the province; and,
- clearly describe the service(s) being requested, including whether it is available in Saskatchewan.

Requirements outlined in legislation and regulations, including those listed above, must be met and the decision from the Ministry of Health must be received **BEFORE** the provision of service(s). It is the **responsibility of the specialist physician** to follow up with the patient regarding the outcome of the request and to discuss the patient's plan for ongoing care.

More Information Resources:

- Visit www.ehealthsask.ca – Search “establishing and operating a practice” to find:
 - Physician Payment Schedule
 - Billing and Operational Bulletin
- Visit www.ehealthsask.ca – Search “health coverage” to find information on coverage outside of Saskatchewan
- Medical Services Branch, Ministry of Health
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