

Please be advised that through joint negotiation between the Ministry of Health, Medical Services Branch (MSB), and the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) on behalf of the Payment Schedule Modernization Working Group, new payment criteria and service codes have been developed for the provision of billing obstetric ultrasound services.

The Ministry of Health and the SMA have a joint interest to modernize and improve the Physician Payment Schedule through the Payment Schedule Modernization project.

In order to achieve the projects objectives and goals, the two parties have undertaken a review of obstetrical ultrasound service codes within the principles of ***patient-centered care, appropriateness, and fairness***. As part of the modernization project, the PSM Working Group reviewed the current descriptors for complete, limited, and “point-of-care” obstetric ultrasounds with a view to updating, improving and modernizing these services within the context of accepted medical practices and standards of care.

These recommendations were based on the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan’s (Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging) recently published guidelines:

1. **Billing for Obstetrical Ultrasound** - A Message from the Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging (ACMI) and the Medical Services Branch.
2. **Ultrasound for Non-Medical Reasons** - Policy – College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (Approved by Council November 2009).
3. **ACMI Ultrasound Definitions**

**NOTE:** There are no changes to the payment rates.

## PAYMENT CRITERIA

- Existing codes 40W and 41W have been terminated and new codes developed in their place.
- New service codes have been designated on a trimester basis.
- Limited ultrasounds are not clinically indicated in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Doppler ultrasounds (50W) are not clinically indicated in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Echocardiograms (20W) are not clinically indicated in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Ultrasounds are payable by referral only.

**Point-of-Care Ultrasound** (POCUS) is an ultrasound examination provided and performed at the ‘point-of-care’ as an adjunct to the physical examination to identify or clarify the presence or absence (uncertainty) of a limited number of specific findings. **This is not billable under any ultrasound code.**

**NEW SERVICE CODES:**

COMPLETE			LIMITED		
Description	Old Code	New Code	Description	Old Code	New Code
<b>Complete - Trimester 1</b>	40W	401W	<b>Limited - Trimester 1</b>	No code	No code
<b>Complete – Trimester 2</b>			<b>Limited – Trimester 2</b>		
Singleton	40W	402W	Singleton	41W	432W
Twin	47W	412W	Twin	41W	432W
Triplets or greater	48W	422W	Triplets or greater	41W	432W
<b>Complete – Trimester 3</b>			<b>Limited – Trimester 3</b>		
Singleton	40W	403W	Singleton	41W	433W
Twin	47W	413W	Twin	41W	433W
Triplets or greater	48W	423W	Triplets or greater	41W	433W

**BILLING DOCUMENTS:** A new Billing Information Sheet has also been developed to assist physicians and their billing staff with submitting these services to MSB for payment.

You have been provided with a copy of the Billing Information Sheet and it can also be found effective October 1, 2017, on the Ministry of Health website:

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

**FOR BILLING ASSISTANCE:** Contact our Claims Analysis Unit at 306-787-3454.

Issued by:  
**Ministry of Health, Medical Services Branch**  
**Saskatchewan Medical Association**