

Optometrist Newsletter

Optometrist's Newsletter No. 07

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NEW – PAYMENT SCHEDULE RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2014

As a result of the negotiated agreement between the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists and Ministry of Health covering the term April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2016, the attached Optometrist Payment Schedule rates are effective October 1, 2014.

Any claims submitted on or after October 1, 2014 will be paid according to the new payment schedule.

A lump sum payment will be paid to optometrists for insured services to Saskatchewan residents based on 1.5% of 2013-14 paid billings. Payment for this lump sum will be made in the run of October 14, 2014.

The lump sum adjustment will be processed by clinic and/or corporation and will appear on your payroll or return file with a fee code of 997Y under your own Health Services Number or 000090050 if unknown.

Key changes to the new payment schedule include:

- expansion of the existing tonometry fee code that will enable it to be billed with the ocular urgency fees codes (15U,16U) when it is medically necessary, effective October 1, 2014;
- coverage of visual field diagnostics for seniors covered under the low income programs, effective October 1, 2014;
- coverage of an annual eye exam for the management of diabetic patients effective October 1, 2014, including:
 - Annual eye exam
 - Tonometry
 - OCT – professional and technical
 - Photography – professional and technical

COVERAGE VERIFICATION

Medical Services Branch

An online Provider Coverage Viewer is available to determine the eligibility of a patient for an eye exam. The Provider Coverage Viewer allows you to check if a patient has coverage under the Supplementary Health, Family Health Benefits, or the Seniors Income Plan programs. If a patient is eligible for an eye exam based on their age or the program coverage they have, the Provider Coverage Viewer will display the patient's age and the date of their last eye exam. If a patient is not eligible for an eye exam based on their age or program coverage, the Provider Coverage Viewer will not display the date of their last eye exam. For eligible patients, the date field will only be displayed if there was an exam during the eligibility period.

For those offices that do not have Provider Coverage Viewer, you can apply for a user name and password to receive access to it by requesting a *Provider Coverage User Agreement/Account Request Form* and *eHealth Security Questions Form* from the eHealth Service Desk at 1-888-316-7446.

The use of fax submissions and telephone calls to verify coverage for patients should only be used if eligibility cannot be determined from the Provider Coverage Viewer.

Supplementary Health and Family Health Benefits Programs

The Provider Coverage Viewer allows you to check if a patient may be eligible for eyewear based on health program coverage; however, the system does not provide prior approvals. To confirm eligibility for eyewear and request prior approval, please call 787-3128 (from within Regina) or 1-800-667-7533.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTRE

In an effort to more effectively handle technical support for problems associated with electronic claim submissions, all calls are handled through a central support centre at 1-888-316-7446. All calls regarding technical problems encountered during electronic claim submissions or pickups should be directed to this number.

If you are unsure as to where to best direct your call, please contact the general inquiries number at (306) 787-3454 or toll free at 1-800-667-7523.

PAPER CLAIMS

Beginning April 1, 2015, a reduced rate of payment will be applied to claims submitted in paper format. As always, Medical Services will accept electronically submitted claims free of charge.

The reduced rate of \$2 per paper claim will apply to all insured services; however, this will not apply to:

- Supplementary Health claims submitted through the Medical Services claims system;
- Other benefits outside of those listed in the Optometrists' Payment Schedule (e.g. prescription glasses);
- Claims which are rejected (for eligibility reasons as above or otherwise); and
- Claims which are billed by report or require re-processing with further information at Medical Services' request are also omitted from this charge.

New practitioners may apply for a grace period of up to 6 months, to establish their electronic billing system. To do so, they must apply in writing to the Supervisor, Claims Analysis in Medical Services: hgouws@health.gov.sk.ca. A list of approved electronic billing program vendors is available upon request from Medical Services.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The following Optometrist Payment Schedule revisions are effective October 1, 2014.

Software vendors have been provided with the updated payment schedule. Please contact your vendor to make sure they have updated your system to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately. Any claims submitted at old rates will auto-return without being paid.

PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

Page 15 Updated address for Health Registration

ASSESSMENT RULES

Page 10	4U	#2 – Amendment to assessment rules
Page 11	12U	#1 & 2 – Amendment to assessment rules
Page 12	22U	New assessment rules
Page 12	31U	New assessment rules
Page 12	34U	New assessment rules
Page 13	35U	New assessment rules
Page 13	36U	New assessment rules
Page 13	37U	New assessment rules
Page 13	38U	New assessment rules
**Page 8	4U	#2 – Amendment to assessment rules
**Page 9	12U	#1, 2, & Note – Amendment to assessment rules
**Page 9	40U	New assessment rules

****New/amended assessment rules as listed in the Supplementary Health, Family Benefits and Seniors Income Plan Programs Payment Schedule.**

EXPLANATORY CODES

Page 16/ **Page 11	AN (amended)	Existing explanatory code – Amendment to address for Health Registration.
Page 16/ **Page 11	AR (amended)	Existing explanatory code – Amendment to address for Health Registration.
Page 16/ **Page 11	AT (amended)	Existing explanatory code – Amendment to include 22U, 31U, 34U, 35U, 36U, 37U, and 38U.
Page 17/ **Page 12	FD	New explanatory code
Page 17/ **Page 12	FM	New explanatory code
Page 18/ **Page 13	SF (amended)	Amendment to wording
Page 18/ **Page 13	SH	New explanatory code
Page 18/ **Page 13	SI	New explanatory code
Page 18/ **Page 13	SJ	New explanatory code
Page 18/ **Page 13	SK	New explanatory code
Page 18/ **Page 13	SL	New explanatory code

****New/amended explanatory codes as listed in the Supplementary Health, Family Benefits and Seniors Income Plan Programs Payment Schedule.**

NEW FEE CODES

Page 5	22U	Annual Eye Examination for Patients with Diabetes
Page 7	31U	Tonometry in conjunction with Annual Eye Examination for Patients with Diabetes
Page 7	34U	Tonometry in conjunction with Assessment of Ocular Urgencies/Emergencies
Page 7	35U	Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – bilateral – professional fee
Page 7	36U	Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – bilateral – technical fee
Page 7	37U	Photography – bilateral – professional fee
Page 7	38U	Photography – bilateral – technical fee
**Page 4	40U	Visual Field Testing (Screening or Threshold)

****New fee code listed in the Supplementary Health, Family Benefits and Seniors Income Plan Programs Payment Schedule.**

CHANGES TO EXISTING FEE CODES

Page 2/ **Page 3	4U	Description amended
Page 3/ **Page 4	12U	Description amended

****New changes to existing fee codes as listed in the Supplementary Health, Family Benefits and Seniors Income Plan Programs Payment Schedule.**

Important Websites:

Government of Saskatchewan:
www.gov.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health:
www.health.gov.sk.ca

Ministry of Health Annual Reports:
www.health.gov.sk.ca/health-annual-reports

Forms:
www.publications.gov.sk.ca/forms.cfm

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS TO APRIL 2014

HOLIDAY	ACTUAL DATE	OBSERVED ON
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2013	Monday, May 20, 2013
Canada Day	Monday, July 1, 2013	Monday July 1, 2013
Saskatchewan Day	Monday, August 5, 2013	Monday, August 5, 2013
Labor Day	Monday, September 2, 2013	Monday, September 2, 2013
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14, 2013	Monday, October 14, 2013
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11, 2013	Monday, November 11, 2013
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2013	Wednesday, December 25, 2013
Boxing Day	Thursday, December 26, 2013	Thursday, December 26, 2013
New Years Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2014	Wednesday, January 1, 2014
Family Day	Monday, February 17, 2014	Monday, February 17, 2014

FLOATING HOLIDAY FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES – OFFICES CLOSED

HOLIDAY	ACTUAL DATE	OBSERVED ON
Floating Stat	Friday, August 2, 2013	Friday, August 2, 2013

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS TO APRIL 2015

HOLIDAY	ACTUAL DATE	OBSERVED ON
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2014	Friday, April 18, 2014
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2014	Monday, May 19, 2014
Canada Day	Tuesday, July 1, 2014	Tuesday, July 1, 2014
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2014	Monday, September 1, 2014

Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13, 2014	Monday, October 13, 2014
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2014	Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 2014	Thursday, December 25, 2014
Boxing Day	Friday, December 26, 2014	Friday, December 26, 2014
New Years Day	Thursday, January 1, 2015	Thursday, January 1, 2015
Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2015	Monday, February 16, 2015

FLOATING HOLIDAY FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES – OFFICES CLOSED

HOLIDAY	ACTUAL DATE	OBSERVED ON
Floating Holiday	Monday, June 30, 2014	Monday, June 30, 2014

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS TO APRIL 2016

HOLIDAY	ACTUAL DATE	OBSERVED ON
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2015	Friday, April 3, 2015
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18, 2015	Monday, May 18, 2015
Canada Day	Wednesday, July 1, 2015	Wednesday, July 1, 2015
Saskatchewan Day	Monday, August 3, 2015	Monday, August 3, 2015
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2015	Monday, September 7, 2015
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12, 2015	Monday, October 12, 2015
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2015	Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2015	Friday, December 25, 2015
Boxing Day	Saturday, December 26, 2015	Monday, December 28, 2015
New Years Day	Friday, January 1, 2016	Friday, January 1, 2016
Family Day	Monday, February 15, 2016	Monday, February 15, 2016
Good Friday	Friday, March 25, 2016	Friday, March 25, 2016