

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 46

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April 1, 2017

IMPORTANT HEALTH WEBSITE LINKS HAVE CHANGED

Physician documents and forms have moved to eHealth Saskatchewan. All Medical Services Branch Payment Schedules, Newsletters, Operations' Bulletins and forms are available at:

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

During the transition period, documents can also be found at: www.saskatchewan.ca at the link below:

<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources>

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter on page 3 are effective April 1, 2017. Software vendors have been provided with the updated payment schedule. Please contact your vendor, if necessary to make sure they have updated your system to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately.

PAPER COPIES OF THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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

NEW PHYSICIANS REQUIRED TO BILL ELECTRONICALLY

All new physicians are required to submit their claims electronically to Medical Services Branch. Information on the options available to new physicians is provided when physicians are initially set up for billing purposes.

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, 2017, 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.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE MODERNIZATION (PSM)

As part of the recent SMA-Ministry Agreement, the two parties are proceeding with modernization of the Payment Schedule within the principles of patient-centered care, appropriateness, and fairness. As part of this project, 'outdated' codes with zero 2015-16 utilization were reviewed by physician sections.

PSM reviewed codes from the **Anesthesia** and **Cardiology** sections and determined that the payment code descriptors had been superseded in clinical practice by more effective and professionally accepted techniques and, thus, no longer considered the best treatment in the opinion of the profession. Therefore, these services have been removed from the Physician Payment Schedule. See Section H (Anesthesia) and Section I (Cardiology) for the specific codes that were deleted.

“MEET-AND-GREET” VISITS

As outlined in *The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act*, all services submitted to the Medical Services Branch for payment must be medically required. “Meet and greet” visits for the purposes of establishing a relationship with a new patient are not considered medically required and should not be billed to Medical Services Branch. The first contact with a new patient may occur at a visit which some refer to as a **meet-and-greet** visit wherein the physician may use this visit to identify the patient's needs and expectations, gather the patient's history, and disclose information about their practice. This service is listed on page 31 of the Physician Payment Schedule as uninsured. Please also refer to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan guidelines, “Patient- Physician Relationship” for more information.

ULTRASOUNDS FOR NON-MEDICAL REASONS

As outlined in *The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act*, all services submitted to the Medical Services Branch for payment must be medically required. Obstetric ultrasounds for the provision of determining fetal gender, entertainment, maternal reassurance, fetal keepsakes, or portraits are not medically required and are not insured services. This service is listed on page 31 of the Physician Payment Schedule as uninsured. Please also refer to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan policy, “Ultrasound for Non-Medical Reasons” for more information.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE April 1, 2017**General**

Revision	Page 7		Introduction
New	Page 13		Definition of "allied health care personnel"
Revision	Page 14		Documentation Requirements for the Purpose of Billing
Revision	Page 24		Services Supervised by a Physician
Revision	Page 30, 31		Services Not Insured by the Ministry of Health
Revision	Page 34		Medical Consultant Fax Number
Revision	Page 35		Information Sources – Casework Unit

Explanatory Codes

Revision	Page 42	BL	SMA Tariff Committee
Revision	Page 44	CA	Uninsured services
Revision	Page 52	HN	Nerve blocks
New	Page 53	JS	246L: Complex incisional hernia with inlay mesh
New	Page 58	RV	Routine verification

SECTION A – General Services

Revision	Page 76	626A	Routine Nursing Home Visit
Deletion	Page 87	714A-716A	Preeceville has been deleted from Category B
Revision	Page 89	726A-729A, 732A, 734A	Telemedicine – Video Link
New	Page 92	790A-791A	Definition of "allied health care personnel" added
New	Page 93	793A	Definition of "allied health care personnel" added

SECTION H – Anesthesia

Clarification	Page 138		Anesthetic premiums
Deletion	Page 145	111H	Trigeminal nerve, posterior root
Deletion	Page 145	112H	Trigeminal nerve, posterior root, with sclerosing agent
Deletion	Page 145	113H	Intracranial nerve
Deletion	Page 145	114H	Intracranial nerve, with sclerosing agent
Deletion	Page 145	145H	Differential diagnostic subarachnoid block
Deletion	Page 145	152H	Subarachnoid, thoracic
Deletion	Page 145	160H	Diagnostic sympathetic thermal response monitoring

SECTION I – Cardiology (Electrophysiology)

Deletion	Page 157	120I	Esophageal electrophysiological study
Deletion	Page 157	125I	Intra-operative electrophysiological study

SECTION L – General Surgery

Revision	Page 185	221L	Peritoneoscopy
Revision	Page 186	246L	Massive incisional hernia with Inlay mesh
Revision	Page 187	251L-253L	Umbilical hernia repairs
New	Page 190	370L	Low anterior resection with total mesorectal excision
New	Page 191	371L	Transanal endoscopic microsurgery (TEM)
New	Page 198	475L	Endoscopic mucosal resection for treatment of Barrett's
New	Page 199	453L	Ileoscopy / jejunoscopy, via ileostomy

SECTION N – Plastic Surgery

Clarification	Page 231	366N	Needle aponeurotomy for Dupuytren's contracture
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SECTION R – Urology

New	Page 258	71R	Verapamil injection for Peyronie's plaque
Clarification	Page 261	580R	Urology BMI Supplement

SECTION T – Otolaryngology

New	Page 280	100T	Percutaneous insertion of bone-anchored hearing aid
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