

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 47

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IMPORTANT HEALTH WEBSITE LINKS HAVE CHANGED

Physician documents and forms are moving to the eHealth Saskatchewan website. Moving documents to eHealth allows you to have quick and easy access to the documents and resources you need from a familiar website.

All Medical Services Branch Payment Schedules, Newsletters and Operations' Bulletins 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 links below:

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

Forms: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/ministry-of-health-forms>

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter on page 4 are effective October 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.

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 can be provided when physicians are initially set up for billing purposes.

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.

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 October 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.

OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND – COMPLETE, LIMITED AND POINT-OF-CARE

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BILLING STAFF AND PHYSICIANS****

The Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Medical Association have a joint interest to modernize and improve the Physician Payment Schedule. Through the recent SMA-Ministry Agreement, the **Payment Schedule Modernization (PSM)** project was developed to address these interests.

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. The PSM Working Group reviewed the current descriptors for complete, limited, and "point-of-care" obstetrical ultrasounds with a view to updating, improving and modernizing these services within the context of accepted medical practices and standards of care. The following is an outline of the changes developed in conjunction with the Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging (ACMI) of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS).

Changes:

- Existing codes 40W, 41W, 47W and 48W have been deleted and new codes have been developed to replace them.
- New service codes have been designated by trimester.
- 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.

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

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.** See description in the Payment Schedule under "Definitions".

A Billing Information Sheet is available to assist physicians and their billing staff.

It can be found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/ministry-of-health-forms>

REFERRING PHYSICIAN REQUIRED FOR ALL ULTRASOUND SERVICES

Please be advised that all ultrasound services in the "W Section" of the Physician payment Schedule require that a 4-digit referring practitioner number be provided when billing services to Medical Services Branch.

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

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|--|---|
| Revision | Page 7 | | Introduction |
| New | Page 14 | | Definition: Point-of-care ultrasound |
| New | Page 14 | | Definition: Technical component |
| New | Page 28 | | Location of service indicators |
| Revision | Page 32 | | Uninsured third party requests/form completions |
| Revision | Page 32 | | Immunization services |
| Revision | Page 33 | | Uninsured ultrasounds |
| New | Page 33 | | Travel related services |
| Update | Page 36 | | Physician claim inquiries information sources |

Explanatory Codes

| | | | |
|------------|---------|----|-------------------------------|
| New | Page 51 | ET | Transfers of care in-hospital |
|------------|---------|----|-------------------------------|

SECTION A – General Services

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Revision | Page 70 | Item 1 | Botox injections |
| New | Page 93 | 770A | Antimicrobial fee management stipend |

SECTION L – General Surgery

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------|--|
| Revision | Page 183 | 224L | Sub-phrenic abscess -- incision and drainage |
| Deletion | Page 186 | 322L | Vertical band gastroplasty for morbid obesity |
| Deletion | Page 186 | 323L | Vertical band gastroplasty for morbid obesity with Roux-en-Y |
| Revision | Page 187 | 340L | Enterostomy or cecostomy |
| New | Page 159 | 370L | Added to 332J eligible procedures list |
| Deletion | Page 196 | 451L | Dilatation of colonic anastomotic site – add (use 485L) |
| Revision | Page 197 | 485L | Dilatations, GI (replaces 451L) |
| New | Page 198 | 514L | Cholangioscopy / pancreatoscopy |
| New | Page 198 | 627L | Antegrade single balloon enteroscopy |
| New | Page 198 | 628L | Retrograde single balloon enteroscopy |

SECTION T – Otolaryngology

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------|---|
| Correction | Page 278 | 100T | Percutaneous insertion of bone-anchored hearing aid |
| New | Page 278 | 250T | Facial nerve monitoring |

SECTION W – Diagnostic Ultrasound

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------|--|
| Deletion | Page 294 | 40W | Complete obstetrical ultrasound |
| Deletion | Page 294 | 41W | Limited obstetrical ultrasound |
| Deletion | Page 294 | 47W | Complete obstetrical ultrasound, twins |
| Deletion | Page 294 | 48W | Complete obstetrical ultrasound, triplets or greater |
| Revision | Page 296 | 50W/51W | Doppler flow studies |
| Revision | Page 295 | 149W | Nuchal translucency |
| New | Page 294 | 401W | Complete – 1 st trimester ultrasound |
| New | Page 294 | 402W | Complete – 2 nd trimester ultrasound, singleton |
| New | Page 294 | 412W | Complete - 2 nd trimester ultrasound, twins |
| New | Page 294 | 422W | Complete - 2 nd trimester ultrasound, triplets or greater |
| New | Page 295 | 432W | Limited – 2 nd trimester ultrasound |
| New | Page 295 | 403W | Complete – 3 rd trimester ultrasound, singleton |
| New | Page 295 | 413W | Complete - 3 rd trimester ultrasound, twins |
| New | Page 295 | 423W | Complete - 3 rd trimester ultrasound, triplets or greater |
| New | Page 295 | 433W | Limited – 3 rd trimester ultrasound |