

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 45

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The new Government of Saskatchewan website is www.saskatchewan.ca

To access an electronic copy of the October 1, 2016, Payment Schedule, visit:

<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/resources-for-health-care-businesses-and-career-development/physician-career-resources>

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter on page 3 are effective October 1, 2016. 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 – NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Please be advised that after October 1, 2015, Medical Services Branch no longer provides 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

Effective October 1, 2012, 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 October 1, 2016, 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.

NEW PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS & PAYMENT CRITERIA – ABDOMINAL PANNICULECTOMY:

Effective October 1, 2016, there is new payment criteria for abdominal panniculectomy (formerly abdominoplasty). Please see page 226 in the Physician Payment Schedule.

Abdominal panniculectomy is only insured by prior approval with submission of pictures and a "Prior Approval Request Form" which can be found at:

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

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 2014-15 utilization were reviewed by physician sections.

PSM reviewed codes from the General Surgery and Urology 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 next page under Section L (General Surgery) and Section R (Urology) for the specific codes that were deleted.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016**Explanatory Codes**

Revision	Page 40	AU	Report Requested
Revision	Page 43	BU	100I removed (2b)
Revision	Page 45	CM	Item f) added
New	Page 53	JG	80J/81J - Surgical Assistant Services
New	Page 53	JH	Anesthetic Premiums Billed by Surgical Assistants
New	Page 58	RD	Routine Audit – Surcharges
New	Page 58	RE	Routine Audit – Time-of-Day Premiums

SECTION A – General Services

Revision	Page 63	70A,71A,74A	SGI Medical Driver Fitness Review forms
Revision	Page 77		Special Call Surcharge policy 8c); 100I removed (8d)
Clarification	Page 78	721A	Emergency Surcharge
Revision	Page 85	708A-710A	ER Coverage – Category A – Lafleche removed
Revision	Page 86	714A-716A	ER Coverage – Category B – Craik removed

SECTION L – General Surgery

Deletion	Page 180	186L	Transthoracic ligation of esophageal veins
Deletion	Page 184	231L	Insertion of Leveen/Denver shunt
Deletion	Page 186	290L	Introduction Barbin-Mousseau tube
Deletion	Page 186	291L	Souttar tube insertion
Deletion	Page 187	324L	Biliopancreatic bypass
Deletion	Page 190	424L	Adrenal exploration, unilateral

SECTION N – Plastic Surgery

Revision	Page 226	Item 5	Surgery of Appearance Preamble
Revision	Page 231	354N	Abdominoplasty (abdominal panniculectomy)

SECTION R – Urology

Deletion	Page 258	107R	Ureterosigmoid anastomosis – unilateral
Deletion	Page 258	108R	Ureterosigmoid anastomosis – bilateral

SECTION X – Radiology

New	Page 308	682X	Percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of solid tumors using CT/ultrasound guidance, first lesion
New	Page 308	683X	Percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of solid tumors using CT/ultrasound guidance, each additional lesion