

# Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 49

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## IMPORTANT HEALTH WEBSITE LINKS HAVE CHANGED

Physician documents and forms have moved 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, Operations Bulletins, Billing Bulletins and forms are available at: <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/resources/establish-operate-practice/Pages/Physicians.aspx>

## PAPER COPIES OF THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE, BILLING BULLETIN AND OPERATIONS BULLETIN

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

### \* **NEW** \* BILLING BULLETIN

Medical Services Branch has developed a new document to provide billing-specific information to physicians and their billing staff. MSB does not provide paper copies of this document and it can be accessed electronically at the link above. MSB would strongly encourage physicians and their billing staff to avail themselves of this important resource. **It can be found at the above link.**

## CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

**The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter are effective October 1, 2018.** 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.

## 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, 2018, 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 to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE MODERNIZATION (PSM)

Payment Schedule Modernization is the first ever comprehensive review of the Payment Schedule for Insured Services Provided by a Physician (the Payment Schedule is a legacy document built upon a period spanning over 50+ years).

The goals of modernization are as follows:

- Ensure fee code descriptors align with current standards of care, advancements in technology and supports modern service delivery.
- Add clarity to fee code descriptors to reduce variations in billing practices, and supports fair and effective auditing processes.
- Ensure fee amounts accurately reflect the service provided, and are equitable within and between different sections.

The **scope** of modernization is constrained by the limitations of the Ministry's current claims system, so any improvements that require substantial information technology investment will fall outside the project for the time being. All **proposed changes** through modernization are vetted through the Payment Schedule Review Committee (PSRC), a joint Ministry-SMA committee, with final approval by the Minister of Health.

Modernization is **revenue neutral**, with any potential savings to be reinvested into the Payment Schedule.

The Modernization Working Group (MWG) is a joint group structured to support a collaborative approach that includes members of the Ministry and SMA, including representation from SMA Committees such as Tariff and Economics. The MWG prioritizes meeting directly with physician sections to share perspectives and advance PSM items.

Current status:

- The following sections had fee codes modernized in the October 1, 2018 Payment Schedule release:
  - Internal Medicine
  - Psychiatry
  - Plastic Surgery
  - General Surgery
  - General Services
- Work is ongoing through the PSM working group with the Orthopedics, Family Practice, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Plastic Surgery, and Psychiatry Sections to review both existing and potential new fee codes within their respective sections.
- To date, eight Physician Sections have expressed interest in proceeding with PSM initiatives. The SMA and the Ministry are working to prioritize these initiatives and agree on items for potential implementation in the **April 1, 2019** Payment Schedule release.

**CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2018**

**General**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 13	Technical components
<b>New</b>	Page 15	Services billable by entitlement

**Explanatory Codes**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 42	BU	Surcharges
<b>Revision</b>	Page 45	CU	Payment is only for approved for certain physicians
<b>New</b>	Page 49	GB	Medical Consultant Review of Claims
<b>New</b>	Page 54	PC	Obstetrics and Gynecology – Surgical abortions
<b>Revision</b>	Page 55	Preamble	Routine Audit and Recovery
<b>Revision</b>	Page 55	RA	Routine Audit – General
<b>Revision</b>	Page 56	RD	Routine Audit – Surcharges
<b>Revision</b>	Page 56	RE	Routine Audit – Time-of-Day Premiums
<b>Revision</b>	Page 56	RF	Routine Audit – Surcharges
<b>New</b>	Page 56	RG	Routine Audit – 540H
<b>New</b>	Page 56	RH	Routine Audit – 545H
<b>New</b>	Page 56	RI	Routine Audit – Injection Services
<b>New</b>	Page 57	RJ	Routine Audit – Post-JMPCR monitoring
<b>New</b>	Page 57	RK	Routine Audit – Post-JMPCR monitoring
<b>New</b>	Page 57	RL	Routine Audit – Post-JMPCR monitoring
<b>New</b>	Page 57	RM	Routine Audit – Monthly Methadone Stipends
<b>Revision</b>	Page 57	RV	Routine Audit – Verifications

**SECTION A– General Services**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 64	41A	FASD assessment and diagnosis – entitlement info updated
<b>New</b>	Page 65	80A, 81A	Third party counselling for the provision of MAID services
<b>Revision</b>	Page 69	190A-199A	Botox Injections – entitlement info updated
<b>Revision</b>	Page 76	626A	Routine Nursing Home Visits
<b>Revision</b>	Page 77		Surcharge/Special Calls
<b>Revision</b>	Page 89	726A, 727A	Video Case Conference – entitlement info updated

**SECTION B– General Practice**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 100	57B	Hepatitis C stipend – entitlement info updated
<b>Revision</b>	Page 101	60B-62B	Methadone stipend

**SECTION D– Internal Medicine**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 116	55D-57D	Entitlement info updated
<b>Deletion</b>	Page 117	264D, 265D	Spirometry
<b>New</b>	Page 117	600D	Simple spirometry, professional
<b>New</b>	Page 117	601D	Simple spirometry, technical
<b>New</b>	Page 117	602D	Simple spirometry, repeat, professional
<b>New</b>	Page 117	603D	Simple spirometry, repeat, technical
<b>New</b>	Page 117	610D	Full spirometry, professional
<b>New</b>	Page 117	611D	Full spirometry, technical
<b>New</b>	Page 117	612D	Full spirometry, repeat, professional
<b>New</b>	Page 117	613D	Full spirometry, repeat, technical

**SECTION E – Psychiatry**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 124	33E-39E	Entitlement info updated
<b>Deletion</b>	Page 124	40E	Psychiatric care, base
<b>Deletion</b>	Page 124	41E	Psychiatric care, additional time
<b>New</b>	Page 126	100E, 101E	Psychiatric care, admitted patient
<b>New</b>	Page 127	110E, 111E	Psychiatric care, non-admitted patient

**SECTION J – Surgical Assisting**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 160	333J, 334J	Entitlement info updated
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**SECTION K – Surgical Assisting**

<b>Revision</b>	Page 163	8K, 14K	Entitlement info updated
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**SECTION L – General Surgery**

<b>Deletion</b>		107L	Biopsy of lung, needle
<b>Deletion</b>		113L	Thoracoplasty, second stage
<b>Deletion</b>		127L	Blalock, Potts or Glenn procedure
<b>Deletion</b>		139L	Banding of pulmonary artery

**SECTION L – General Surgery (continued)**

<b>Deletion</b>		140L	Pulmonary stenosis
<b>Deletion</b>		144L	Procedures with cardio-pulmonary bypass
<b>Deletion</b>		146L	Tetralogy, complete repair
<b>Deletion</b>		147L	Aorto-pulmonary window closure
<b>Deletion</b>		187L	Coarctation of aorta repair
<b>Deletion</b>		307L	Pyloroplasty with vagotomy
<b>Revision</b>	Page 187	371L	TEM – entitlement info updated
<b>Deletion</b>		458L	Insertion of vena-cava filter
<b>Deletion</b>	Page 196	512L	Stentings
<b>Deletion</b>		613L	Radiofrequency Ablation
<b>Deletion</b>		614L	Radiofrequency Ablation
<b>Revision</b>	Page 189	854L	Muscle biopsy
<b>Revision</b>	Page 190	971L	Resection of Sarcoma – entitlement info updated

**SECTION N – Plastic Surgery**

<b>New</b>	Page 223	100N	Split thickness Grafts
<b>New</b>	Page 223	103N	Split thickness Grafts
<b>New</b>	Page 223	105N	Split thickness Grafts
<b>New</b>	Page 223	107N	Split thickness Grafts
<b>New</b>	Page 223	109N	Split thickness Grafts
<b>New</b>	Page 223	111N	Split thickness Grafts
<b>New</b>	Page 224	120N	Burns - surgical Debridement
<b>New</b>	Page 224	123N	Burns - surgical Debridement
<b>New</b>	Page 224	125N	Burns - surgical Debridement
<b>New</b>	Page 224	130N	Burns - escharotomy
<b>New</b>	Page 224	132N	Burns - escharotomy
<b>New</b>	Page 225	140N	Wound Debridement
<b>New</b>	Page 225	142N	Wound Debridement
<b>New</b>	Page 225	144N	Wound Debridement
<b>Deletion</b>		228N	Defects
<b>Deletion</b>		229N	Transplantation of Skin – Non-Functional Area

**SECTION N – Plastic Surgery (continued)**

<b>Deletion</b>		230N	Transplantation of Skin – Non-Functional Area
<b>Deletion</b>		231N	Transplantation of Skin – Non-Functional Area
<b>Deletion</b>		232N	Transplantation of Skin – Non-Functional Area
<b>Deletion</b>		233N	Transplantation of Skin – Non-Functional Area
<b>Deletion</b>		234N	Defects
<b>Deletion</b>		235N	Defects
<b>Deletion</b>		236N	Transplantation of Skin - Functional Areas
<b>Deletion</b>		237N	Transplantation of Skin - Functional Areas
<b>Deletion</b>		238N	Transplantation of Skin - Functional Areas
<b>Deletion</b>		239N	Transplantation of Skin - Functional Areas
<b>Deletion</b>		245N	Eye socket -- reconstruction
<b>Deletion</b>		247N	Oral -- buccal inlay
<b>Deletion</b>		248N	Bone cavity
<b>Deletion</b>		249N	Vagina -- with reconstruction for congenital absence
<b>Deletion</b>		269N	Mesh grafting
<b>Revision</b>	Page 225	420N	Wound management – vacuum assisted
<b>Revision</b>	Page 225	421N	Wound management – vacuum assisted
<b>Deletion</b>		453N	Subsequent dressings for severe burn patients
<b>Deletion</b>		454N	Subsequent dressings for severe burn patients
<b>Deletion</b>		455N	Surgical debridement of burns
<b>Deletion</b>		456N	Surgical debridement of burns
<b>Deletion</b>		460N	Tangential excision -- single hand
<b>Deletion</b>		461N	Tangential excision -- single foot
<b>Deletion</b>		470N	Escharotomy
<b>Deletion</b>		471N	Escharotomy
<b>Deletion</b>		472N	Escharotomy

**SECTION P – Obstetrics & Gynecology**

Revision Page 239 50P Therapeutic abortion, 1<sup>st</sup> trimester

Revision Page 239 250P Therapeutic abortion, 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester

**SECTION S – Ophthalmology**

Revision Page 267 110S Orbit, abscess, incision and drainage

**SECTION W – Diagnostic Ultrasound**

Revision Page 289 149W, 150W Nuchal translucency – entitlement info updated

Revision Page 291 120W-136W Soft Tissue Ultrasounds