

Billing Information Sheet

Physician Remuneration for Pandemic Telephone Assessment

Effective January 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021

510A Pandemic Telephone Assessment \$35.00

OVERVIEW:

The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act and The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Beneficiary and Administration Regulations provide the legislative authority for public funding of physician services.

For the purposes of payment, this information is applicable to fee-for-service specialist physicians only. For services on or following June 1, 2021, specialists are to use the Virtual Care Pilot service codes implemented June 1, 2021.

Effective January 1, 2021, the temporary service code 510A – Pandemic Telephone Assessment is only payable to SK specialist physicians. Specialists who are compensated by an alternate payment plan (APP), or directly by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) are permitted to “shadow bill” these services, but no payment will be eligible.

General practitioners providing services on or following January 1, 2021 are to use the Virtual Care Pilot general practitioner service codes implemented January 1, 2021. For virtual care services provided between March 13, 2020 and December 31, 2020, general practitioners are to use 510A/515A service codes.

For clarity, effective January 1, 2021, 510A is payable *only* to physicians that are a ‘specialist’ or ‘foreign certified specialist’ as defined in the Physician Payment Schedule “Definitions”. And a ‘medical learner’ is a person as defined in the Physician Payment Schedule “Services Supervised By A Physician” sub-clause a).

BILLING INSTRUCTIONS:

Specialist physicians can be paid for medically required telephone assessments not restricted to diagnosis specific to COVID-19.

Service must be medically required and cannot be delegated by the physician to a non-physician. Service must be direct patient care by a specialist physician via telephone.

Service is eligible by all Saskatchewan specialist physicians providing medically required assessment services to SK beneficiaries. It is not billable to out-of-province residents or reciprocally by out-of-province physicians.

Service can be initiated by specialist physician or patient.

Service is not restricted by SK location i.e., patient and physician may be located anywhere in SK.

Service is not eligible for any premiums or surcharges.

Service is payable for services performed by a medical learner under the supervision of a specialist physician as long as the physician is able to intervene promptly if necessary. Billings must include the comment: “supervision of medical learner”.

A maximum of two telephone (510A) or two video assessments (515A) are billable per patient per day by any specialist physician. (in total; not two each)

Telephone assessment cannot be billed with any additional service codes.

Services provided in person must be billed according to the Payment Schedule.

Billing physicians are responsible to ensure appropriate documentation of the telephone assessment:

- Date and time of service
- Patient name
- Patient HSN
- Relevant clinical detail including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up

All general billing inquiries can be directed to the Claims Analysis Unit at
Medical Services Branch: (306) 787-3454