

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 52

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IMPORTANT HEALTH WEBSITE INFORMATION

All Medical Services Branch Payment Schedules, Newsletters, Operations Bulletins, Billing Bulletins, billing information sheets 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.

BILLING RESOURCES

There are new billing resources available on the website. These documents will be provided to all new physicians upon registering with Medical Services Branch. They are also available for download or viewing at the above link. They cover topics such as physician billing obligations, documentation requirements, payment integrity (audit), requesting changes to the Physician Payment Schedule, and the Joint Medical Professional Review Committee.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter are **effective April 1, 2020**. Software vendors have been provided with the updated information. Please contact your vendor, if necessary, to make sure they have updated your system to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately.

ALL PHYSICIANS REQUIRED TO BILL ELECTRONICALLY

All physicians are required to submit their claims electronically to Medical Services Branch. Information on the options available to physicians can be provided when physicians are initially set-up for billing purposes or by contacting MSB.

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, 2020, 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).

PSM is a multi-year project, jointly administered by the Ministry of Health (Ministry) and the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) with the mandate of updating the fee codes in the Physician Payment Schedule using the principles of patient-centered care, appropriateness, and fairness.

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

All changes to items in the Payment Schedule recommended by the PSM working group are vetted through the Payment Schedule Review Committee's (PSRC), a joint Ministry-SMA committee, with final approval by the Minister of Health.

The following sections have had fee codes modernized in the April 1, 2020, Payment Schedule release:

- General Services
- General Surgery
- Family Practice
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedic Surgery

In February 2020, funding was approved for the remuneration of physicians participating in PSM work, including additional compensation for the section working group chair.

The Ministry and the SMA have been meeting directly with physician sections to share perspectives and begin advancing PSM items, with potential implementation of several items in the October 1, 2020 Payment Schedule release. If you would like further information on PSM and/or would like to become involved, please contact the SMA.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2020**Explanatory Codes**

Revision	Page 56	RC	Routine Audit and Recovery
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SECTION A – General Services

Delete	Page 77	626A	Routine Nursing Home Visit
New	Page 77	627A	Special Care Home Management-Indirect Patient Care for Special Care Home Patients
New	Page 77	628A	Special Care Home Management-Direct Patient Care for Special Care Home Patients
New	Page 78	629A	Special Care Home Management Conversion
New	Page 99	935A	Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy – Continuous Attendance --first 15 minutes
New	Page 99	936A	Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy – Continuous Attendance -- subsequent 15 minutes or major portion thereof
New	Page 99	937A	Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy – Non-Continuous Indirect Supervision

SECTION B– General Practice

Rate	Page 101		Age premium for eligible visit services, age 55-64 – increase from 15% to 20%
Rate	Page 101		Age premium for eligible visit services, age 65-74 – increase from 25% to 30%
Rate	Page 101		Age premium for eligible visit services, age 75-84 – increase from 35% to 40%
Rate	Page 101		Age premium for eligible visit services, age 85+ – increase from 35% to 45%
Rate	Page 101	5B	Rate increase from \$35.00 to \$35.40
Revision	Page 110	164B	Advanced Primary Health Care for Pediatric Patients – Psychiatric Care, add

SECTION K – Neurosurgery

Rate	Page 167	9K	Rate increase from \$122.00 to \$155.00
Rate	Page 168	25K	Rate increase from \$34.00 to \$47.10
Rate	Page 168	26K-28K	Rate increase from \$30.00 to \$41.20
Rate	Page 175	331K	Percentage decrease from 50% to 45%

SECTION L – General Surgery

New	Page 197	705L	Surgical debridement of chronic skin ulcer or wound
Revision	Page 196	899L	Minor tray service – 705L added

SECTION M – Orthopedic Surgery

Revision	Page 213	379M	Description revision and rate increase from \$125 to \$475
Revision	Page 215	437M	Descriptor revision
Rate	Page 215	449M	Rate increase from \$968.50 to \$1300
Revision	Page 215	456M	Description revision and rate increase from \$764.60 to \$970
Revision	Page 215	460M	Description revision and rate increase from \$407.50 to \$520
Revision	Page 215	462M	Description revision and rate increase from \$407.80 to \$525
New	Page 215	465M	Midfoot fusion, add to 462M
Delete	Page 215	467M	Arthrodesis – triple - with tendon transplantation, add

SECTION R – Urology

New	Page 226	55R	Correction of penile curvature by grafting
New	Page 226	56R	Correction of penile curvature by intracorporeal destruction/incision
New	Page 226	57R	Correction of penile curvature by plication