

Physicians' Newsletter

Physicians' Newsletter No. 60

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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 Operations Bulletin. These documents can be found at the above link.

NEWSLETTER MAIL-OUTS VIA CANADA POST

Please be advised that the Physicians' Newsletter will no longer be mailed out to physicians via Canada Post. In the future, newsletters will only be available on the **Customer Portal**. They are issued every April 1 and October 1.

ACTION REQUIRED – BILLING SOFTWARE & PAYMENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Physician Payment Schedule revisions outlined in this letter are **effective April 1, 2024**. As outlined in the physicians' Automated Claims Submission and Direct Payment Agreement, payment for services submitted to Medical Services Branch is made in accordance with the applicable Physician Payment Schedule in effect on the date the service is provided. It is imperative that your billing software is utilizing the most up-to-date rate file.

The new claims system should automatically adjust the payment rate as per the April 1, 2024, Payment Schedule; however, this is the first time this feature has been available. If you are not comfortable with relying on this new feature, you should hold your billings until your vendor rate file has been updated. The new April 1, 2024, rate file has been provided to all software vendors and is posted on the Customer Portal for download. If necessary, please contact your software vendor to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately and/or at the new rate.

The rate changes are a result of the negotiated settlement between the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Ministry of Health covering the 4 years from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2026. For more information on the agreement or the rate changes contained in the April 1, 2024, Physician Payment Schedule, please contact the Saskatchewan Medical Association.

VIRTUAL CARE SERVICES

Effective April 1, 2024, virtual care services, previously billable through the “Virtual Care Pilot Payment Schedule”, are now insured services pursuant to *The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act* and are now included in the Physician Payment Schedule. The same assessment rules apply. Rate changes as indicated above.

BILLING RESOURCES

There are billing resources, such as billing information sheets, available on the website. These documents are provided to all new physicians upon registering with Medical Services Branch. They are also available for download or viewing at the above link.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2024

GENERAL

Clarification	Sections B-T	Multi	Repeat consultation descriptors have been updated/clarified.
Revision	Information Sources	Page xx	Processing Support – Item (h)

EXPLANATORY CODES

Revision	CE	Policy, Governance and Audit removed as the contact
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SECTION A – General Services

Correction	153A	“Exceptional” has been corrected to “exception”
Correction	154A	“Exceptional” has been corrected to “exception”
Revision	Preamble	Added 580N to the list of codes in 2.g) in the out-of-hours premium preamble
Deletion	708A-710A	Category A: Estevan, Humboldt, Melfort, Moosomin, Weyburn – have been deleted
New	875A	Limited virtual care visit (patient to physician) provided via secure videoconference

SECTION B – General Practice

New	805B	Virtual partial assessment or subsequent virtual visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	855B	Virtual partial assessment or subsequent virtual visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference, involving a specialist referral
New	809B	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811B	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	840B	Virtual counselling provided via telephone or secure videoconference, first 15 minutes

SECTION B – General Practice

New	841B	Virtual counselling provided via telephone or secure videoconference, additional 15 minutes
New	864B	Virtual Chronic Disease Management provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION C – Pediatrics

New	805C	Virtual partial assessment or subsequent virtual visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809C	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811C	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	815C	Virtual Pediatric counselling provided via telephone or secure videoconference, first 15-minute time period
New	816C	Virtual Pediatric counselling provided via telephone or secure videoconference, additional 15 minutes

SECTION D – Internal Medicine

Clarification	350D	Follow-up of Transplant Patient – heart, lung, liver or pancreas; kidney transplant follow-up use 308R
New	805D	Virtual partial assessment or subsequent virtual visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809D	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811D	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION E – Psychiatry

New	807E	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809E	Adult virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	810E	Child virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811E	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION E – Psychiatry

New	831E	Virtual psychiatric social interview provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	835E	Virtual Family Psychotherapy, first 45 minutes
New	837E	Virtual Family Psychotherapy, each additional 15 minutes
New	838E	Virtual Individual Psychotherapy or psychiatric counselling, first 30 minutes
New	839E	Virtual Individual Psychotherapy or psychiatric counselling, each additional 15 minutes
New	700E	Virtual Psychiatric Care – Admitted patient to a hospital or health care centre, first 15 minutes
New	701E	Virtual Psychiatric Care – Admitted patient to a hospital or health care centre, additional 15 minutes
New	710E	Virtual Psychiatric Care – Patient not admitted to a hospital or health care centre, first 15 minutes
New	711E	Virtual Psychiatric Care – Patient not admitted to a hospital or health care centre, additional 15 minutes

SECTION F – Dermatology

New	807F	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809F	Virtual Consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811F	Repeat Virtual Consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION G – Medical Genetics

New	807G	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809G	Virtual Consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811G	Repeat Virtual Consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION H – Anesthesia

New	809H	Virtual Consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
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SECTION I – Cardiology

New	805I	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809I	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811I	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION K – Neurosurgery

New	807K	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809K	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	810K	Virtual Consultation – spinal, routine provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811K	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	815K	Virtual follow-up visit, spinal, routine provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION L – General Surgery

New	807L	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809L	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	810L	Virtual cardiac surgery consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811L	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION M – Orthopedic Surgery

New	507M	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	509M	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	511M	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION N – Plastic Surgery

Deletion	Item 8	Item (8) under the heading “Other Body Areas” has been removed (Sex reassignment surgery is insured only if performed on patients for whom surgery has been recommended by an authority recognized by Medical Services Branch)
New	807N	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809N	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811N	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION O – Physical Medicine

New	805O	Virtual partial assessment or subsequent virtual visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809O	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811O	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION P – Obstetrics & Gynecology

New	807P	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	808P	Virtual prenatal visit
New	809P	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811P	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION Q – Neurology

New	805Q	Virtual partial assessment or subsequent virtual visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809Q	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811Q	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION R – Urology

New	807R	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809R	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811R	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION S – Ophthalmology

New	807S	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	808S	Virtual neuro-ophthalmology follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809S	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811S	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference

SECTION T – Otolaryngology

New	807T	Virtual follow-up assessment provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	809T	Virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference
New	811T	Repeat virtual consultation provided via telephone or secure videoconference