

# Temporary Referral Number

A new temporary referral number **9901** was introduced for the rare occasion when:

- The referring physician's billing number is not valid because the referring physician has not practiced in Saskatchewan during the past two years; and
- The patient is not under the care of a new physician; and
- The physician/specialist's claim has been rejected with explanatory code 'ZL'.

## ***Eligibility Criteria***

1. The consultation or visit service is provided on or after April 1, 2025;
2. The physician/specialist's claim has been rejected with explanatory code 'ZL'. This means the claim was rejected as the referring physician has been inactive for greater than two (2) years from the date of service;
3. The name of the referring physician must be documented as a comment in the claim and a record of the referral must be retained in the patient's clinical record;
4. The physician's name indicated in the comments field must match the name of the referring doctor number on your rejected claim. To verify a referring physician number, please review the Referring Practitioners file available on Customer Portal;
5. The temporary referral number will only be accepted two (2) times per patient, per physician. Additional services will be considered in exceptional circumstances when accompanied by an explanation satisfactory to the Ministry of Health;
6. Once the patient is under the care of a new physician, it is the expectation that the consultant physician will provide the records related to the initial referral to the new physician and any further referrals or ongoing follow-up care will be billed using the new physician's 4-digit number.

## ***Claim Submission Example***

The referring physician number for Dr. John Doe is 1234. This physician retired in 2021.

**Original Claim Submission:** A consultation with a date of service on April 1, 2025, and referring physician number **1234** was rejected with explanatory code ZL.

**Claim Resubmission with the Temporary Referral Number:** The original claim is resubmitted with the updated temporary referral number **9901** in the referring physician field with a comment "Referred by Dr. John Doe". This claim will pend for manual review and will be processed to pay if the eligibility criteria is met, and the claim does not fail against any existing business rules.