

Optometrists' Newsletter No. 08

Published by Medical Services Branch

February 1, 2022

Inquiries at 306-787-3454

NEW CODES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2022

As a result of the tentative negotiated agreement between the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists and the Ministry of Health covering the term April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2022, the attached Payment Schedule for Insured Services Provided by Optometrists is effective February 1, 2022.

Any claims submitted on or after February 1, 2022 (the implementation date) will be paid according to the new payment schedule for services from February 1, 2022.

RETRO PAYMENT

The previous Payment Schedule published October 1, 2021 applied new rates as per the new agreement to existing fee codes starting October 1, 2021. For insured services you provided to Saskatchewan residents for the period April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021, a lump sum payment will be included in optometrists' payment for run 'om' on January 31, 2022. This lump sum adjustment will appear on your return file as fee code 997Y.

KEY CHANGES TO THE NEW SCHEDULE:

- **Five new services, 15 new codes**
- New "High Risk Medication Consultation" code for beneficiaries on hydroxychloroquine or pentosan polysulfate.
 - Includes **new OCT** codes for use in conjunction with this service, and **new 40U** use for patients on hydroxychloroquine.
- New "Junior Idiopathic Arthritis Consultation" code for beneficiaries under 18 years of age. Note that referring pediatric rheumatologists may reside out of province, but patients must be Saskatchewan beneficiaries.
 - Includes **new tonometry code** for use in conjunction with this service.
- Two new "Cycloplegic Retinoscopy" test codes for patients under 11 and those aged 11 to 17.
- New initial and subsequent visit "Post Cataract Surgical Care" codes for services 1 day to 365 days and 2 days to 365 days post surgery.
 - Includes **new OCT and tonometry codes** for use in conjunction with these services.
- **New code number (810U)** for Virtual Care - Optometrist Assessment of Ocular Urgencies or Emergencies via secure telephone or video.

COVERAGE VERIFICATION

Medical Services Branch

An online Provider Coverage Viewer is available to determine patient eligibility for an eye exam. The Provider Coverage Viewer allows you to check if a patient has coverage under the Supplementary Health, Family Health Benefits, or the Seniors Income Plan programs. If patients are eligible for eye exams based on their age or the program coverage they have, the Provider Coverage Viewer will display the patient's age and the date of their last eye exam. If a patient is not eligible for an eye exam based on their age or program coverage, the Provider Coverage Viewer will not display the date of their last eye exam. For eligible patients, the date field will only be displayed if there was an exam during the eligibility period.

For those offices that do not have Provider Coverage Viewer, you can apply for a user name and password by requesting a *Provider Coverage User Agreement/Account Request Form* and eHealth Security Questions Form from the eHealth Service Desk at 1-888-316-7446.

The use of fax submissions and telephone calls to verify coverage for patients should only be used if eligibility cannot be determined from the Provider Coverage Viewer.

Supplementary Health and Family Health Benefits Programs

The Provider Coverage Viewer allows you to check if a patient may be eligible for eyewear based on health program coverage; however, the system does not provide prior approvals. To confirm eligibility for eyewear and request prior approval, please call 787-3128 (from within Regina) or 1-800-667-7533.

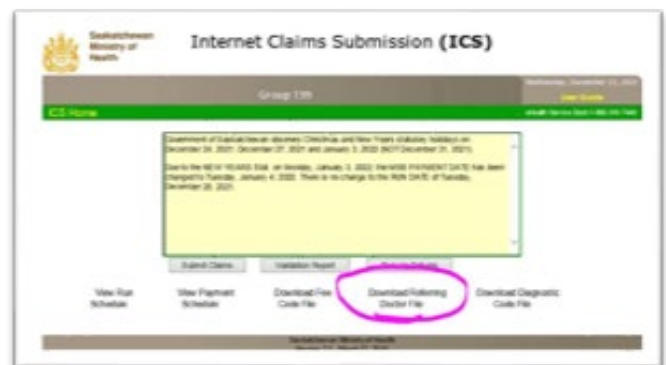
TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTRE

In an effort to more effectively handle technical support for problems associated with electronic claim submissions, all calls are handled through a central support centre at 1-888-316-7446. All calls regarding technical problems encountered during electronic claim submissions or pickups should be directed to this number.

If you are unsure as to where to best direct your call, please contact the Physician Enquiries number at (306) 787-3454.

REFERRING PHYSICIAN BILLING NUMBER

If you submit claims **electronically** using the Internet Claims Submission (ICS) site, you can access the referring physician's billing numbers under the link entitled "Download Referring Doctor File" on the ICS homepage:



If you submit claims **on paper**, you can call the Casework Unit at 306-798-0013 extension 1 to get the referring physician's billing number.

PAPER CLAIMS

Beginning April 1, 2015, a reduced rate of payment will be applied to claims submitted in paper format. As always, Medical Services (MSB) accepts electronically submitted claims free of charge.

The reduced rate of \$2 per paper claim will apply to all insured services; however, this will not apply to:

- Supplementary Health claims submitted through the Medical Services claims system;
- Other benefits outside of those listed in the Optometrists' Payment Schedule (e.g. prescription glasses);

- Claims that are rejected (for eligibility reasons as above or otherwise); and
- Claims that are billed by report or require re-processing with further information at Medical Services' request are also omitted from this charge.

New practitioners may apply for a grace period of up to 6 months, to establish their electronic billing system. To do so, they must apply in writing to the Supervisor, Claims Analysis in MSB:

<mailto:jackie.campbell-pascoe@health.gov.sk.ca>

A list of approved electronic billing program vendors is available upon request from Medical Services.

CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The following Optometrist Payment Schedule revisions are effective February 1, 2022

Software vendors have been provided with the updated payment schedule. Please contact your vendor to make sure they have updated your system to ensure your claims are being paid appropriately. Any claims submitted at old rates will auto-return without being paid.

NEW FEE CODES

Reference	New/Amended Code	New Service Title	Required Referrals - Instructions
Page 6	40U	Added to the MSB section of the PS, and amended to include use in conjunction with 91U High Risk Medication Consultation for patients on hydroxychloroquine only.	
Page 7	91U	High Risk Medication Consultation	Yes. Referring Physician Billing Numbers can be obtained from downloading the referring doctor file from the ICS site, or by calling the Casework Unit.

Reference	New/Amended Code	New Service Title	Required Referrals - Instructions
Page 7	92U	Junior Idiopathic Arthritis Consultation	Yes. Referring Physician Billing Numbers can be obtained from downloading the referring doctor file from the ICS site download or by calling the Casework Unit.
Page 8	131U	Post Cataract Surgical Care – Initial Visit – Left Eye	Yes. Referring Physician Billing Numbers can be obtained from downloading the referring doctor file from the ICS site, or by calling the Casework Unit.
Page 8	132U	Post Cataract Surgical Care – Initial Visit – Right Eye	Yes. Referring Physician Billing Numbers can be obtained from downloading the referring doctor file from the ICS site, or by calling the Casework Unit.
Page 9	133U	Post Cataract Surgical Care – Subsequent Visit – Left Eye	
Page 9	134U	Post Cataract Surgical Care – Subsequent Visit – Right Eye	
Page 9	135U	OCT Professional – bilateral – with Post Cataract Surgical Care	
Page 9	136U	OCT Technical – bilateral – with Post Cataract Surgical Care	
Page 9	137U	Tonometry – bilateral – with Post Cataract Surgical Care	
Page 10	190U	OCT Professional – bilateral – with High Risk Medication Consultation	
Page 10	191U	OCT Technical – bilateral – with High Risk Medication Consultation	
Page 10	192U	Tonometry with Junior Idiopathic Arthritis Consultation	
Page 10	810U	Virtual Care – Optometrist Assessment of Ocular Urgencies or Emergencies via secure telephone or video	

ASSESSMENT RULES

Page 19	40U	Amended to include eligibility with a 91U for patients on hydroxychloroquine.
Page 21	91U	New assessment rules
Page 22	92U	New assessment rules
Page 22	115U	New assessment rules
Page 23	116U	New assessment rules
Page 23	131U	New assessment rules
Page 23	132U	New assessment rules
Page 24	133U	New assessment rules
Page 24	134U	New assessment rules
Page 24	135U	New assessment rules
Page 25	136U	New assessment rules
Page 25	190U	New assessment rules
Page 25	191U	New assessment rules
Page 25	192U	New assessment rules
Page 25	810U	New assessment rules

EXPLANATORY CODES

Page 26	AT	Amended – language consistent with Physician Payment Schedule
Page 28	BT	New – included for claims rejected for exceeding frequency maximum.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

Government of Saskatchewan: www.saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health: www.health.gov.sk.ca

Ministry of Health Annual Reports: www.health.gov.sk.ca/health-annual-reports

Forms: www.publications.gov.sk.ca/forms.cfm

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS 2022

HOLIDAY	ACTUAL DATE	OBSERVED ON
New Year's Day	Saturday, January 1, 2022	Monday, January 3, 2022
Family Day	Monday, February 21, 2022	Monday, February 21, 2022
Good Friday	Friday, April 15, 2022	Friday, April 15, 2022
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23, 2022	Monday, May 23, 2022
Canada Day	Friday, July 1, 2022	Friday, July 1, 2022
Floating Holiday	Friday, July 29, 2022	Friday, July 29, 2022
Saskatchewan Day	Monday, August 1, 2022	Monday, August 1, 2022
Labour Day	Monday, September 5, 2022	Monday, September 5, 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2022	Monday, October 10, 2022
Remembrance Day	Friday, November 11, 2022	Friday, November 11, 2022
Christmas Day	Sunday, December 25, 2022	Friday, December 23, 2022
Boxing Day	Monday, December 26, 2022	Monday, December 26, 2022