KEY MESSAGE:

The RIO Score criteria has changed from 45 to 40 for Rurality Based Premiums.

In April 2011 a change in the eligibility criteria for Rurality Gradient and Hospital Premiums for Rural and Northern Physicians was implemented. This change is retroactive to April 2009. Physicians whose practice address has a Rurality Index of Ontario (RIO) score of 40 and above are now eligible to receive the Rurality Gradient Premium and Hospital Premium for Rural and Northern Physicians.

Rurality Gradient Premium:

Previous to this implementation, physicians who had a RIO score of 45 to 49 based on their practice address were eligible for a $5000 annual payment. The RIO eligibility criterion has been lowered to 40, so an annual $5000 premium will be paid for RIO score 40 to 49. All other levels remain unchanged.

Hospital Premium for Rural and Northern Physicians:

Physicians with a RIO score of 40 or greater who have provided $2000 in eligible hospital services are entitled to a $7500 Hospital Premium payment. Once $6000 in eligible hospital services is provided an additional $5000 payment will be made for a total $12500 Hospital Premium.

Retroactive Payments:

All retroactive payments owed will be paid on the June 2011 Remittance Advice.

Should you have any questions regarding your premium payments please contact your local Ministry office.

For general questions about please contact Primary Health Care at 1-866-766-0266.