To: All Primary Care Physicians

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Re: Supporting Areas of High Physician Need

This INFOBulletin is a follow-up to:

- INFOBulletin #11125 - Changes to Primary Health Care Physician Payments,
- INFOBulletin #11131 - Supporting Areas of High Physician Need: Changes to Entry into Family Health Organization and Family Health Networks, and
- INFOBulletin #11142 – Supporting Areas of High Physician Need

These earlier INFOBulletins announced changes to the ministry’s Managed Entry policy which limited registrations for physicians interested in joining or becoming a Family Health Organization (FHO) or Family Health Network (FHN) to twenty (20) physicians per month in areas of high physician need only. Further, participation in the Income Stabilization Program was limited to physicians joining a FHN or FHO in areas of high physician need.

This INFOBulletin includes an updated list of Areas of High Physician Need. The updated list is effective immediately upon posting of this INFOBulletin. The list can be found on the ministry website at:


The factors considered when compiling this list include the Rurality Index for Ontario (RIO) score and family physician to population ratio. Input from Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) based on factors associated with local demographics, socioeconomic status, population health needs and access considerations have also been incorporated.
If you are interested in applying to become a FHO or FHN physician within these areas, please contact the ministry at 416-325-3575 or 1-866-766-0266 or by mail at:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Blended Models Unit, NAMD
1075 Bay Street, 3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2B1

Family physicians interested in practicing in other parts of the province have a variety of different practice and compensation models available to them. These include but are not limited to: Comprehensive Care Model (CCM); Family Health Group (FHG), replacement or locum physician within a FHN or FHO and traditional fee for service. In the fall of 2015, the ministry also introduced a voluntary New Graduate Entry Program (NGEP) for new family medicine graduate physicians who wish to join a FHO or FHN that is not in an identified high physician need area.

With the approval of the ministry and/or subject to available FTE positions within models, physicians can also join Community Health Centres (CHCs), Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs), Rural and Northern Physician Group Agreement (RNPGAs), Blended Salary Models (BSMs) and others.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Managed Entry policy are also available on the ministry’s web site. If you have any further questions, please contact your ministry Program Analyst at 416-325-3575 or 1-866-766-0266.