

Bulletin



Bulletin Number	Date	Direct inquiries to
4492	February 6, 2009	Dr. Chester Brown Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Health Services Branch
Distribution		(contact below)
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: Seeking Physician Payment Review Board Applicants from Specific Specialties

In follow-up to [Bulletin Number 4479](#), July 7, 2008, the government's Public Appointments Secretariat is seeking further applications from interested physicians who wish to be considered for appointment to the Physician Payment Review Board ("review board").

Additional applicants are being sought to broaden the range of specialties that appointees will represent. In particular, applications are encouraged from physicians practicing in the following specialties: cardiology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, orthopedic surgery, paediatrics and psychiatry.

The review board is an independent adjudicative agency established in law through section 5.1 of the *Health Insurance Act, 1990 (HIA)*. It is a cornerstone of the revised medical audit system implemented in line with recommendations contained in a report published by Mr. Peter Cory entitled "Medical Audit Practice in Ontario". For further information regarding the establishment of the revised medical audit process please refer to [Bulletin 4449](#) available online by scrolling down to the area entitled OHIP for Healthcare Professionals and clicking on OHIP Bulletin at the following web address: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/providers_mn.html.

Review Board Role

Members of the review board will have responsibility for conducting hearings and rendering decisions regarding physician fee-for-service claims payment matters that cannot be resolved by the ministry and a physician.

Review Board Membership

The HIA stipulates that the review board must have between 20 and 30 physician members, half of whom are nominated by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), half recommended by the minister, and between six and ten public members who are not physicians.

Ultimately, the application process administered by the Public Appointments Secretariat and the terms of engagement are the same whether a physician member is nominated by the OMA or the ministry. Once appointed, members are eligible to receive per diems and reimbursement for eligible expenses.

Some Restrictions Apply

Applicants must:

- be actively engaged in rendering insured services to insured persons and submitting accounts for insured services to the Plan at the time of appointment,
- provide a current Certificate of Professional Conduct from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario,
- not have been the subject of a finding of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity whether in Ontario or in another jurisdiction,
- not have been required to reimburse the Plan as a result of a decision of the Medical Review Committee or the Health Services Appeal and Review Board in the previous 10 years, and
- not be employed in the public service of Ontario or in a Crown agency as defined in the *Crown Agency Act*.

In addition, a potential appointee to the Review Board is required to notify the Minister if he or she has been found guilty of fraud under the *Criminal Code* (Canada) or of an offence under the laws of Canada or a province or territory that is relevant to his or her suitability to sit as a member, unless the finding of guilt is for an offence for which he or she has received a pardon.

How to Apply

All persons applying to serve on any government Agency, Board or Commission must apply through the Public Appointments Secretariat. You may apply online at www.pas.gov.on.ca or by requesting an application form from:

Public Appointments Secretariat
Room 2440, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Inquiries?

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Dr. Chester Brown of the Health Services Branch at (613) 536-3101.