

# INFOBulletin

Keeping health care providers informed of payment, policy or program changes

**To:** Physicians, Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities

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**Bulletin #:** 4596

**Re: Investments in On-Call Coverage – 2012/13 Additional One-Time Payments**

The *2008 Physician Services Agreement* (2008 PSA) between the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) provided for a \$20 million annual investment in on-call coverage beginning April 1, 2011.

A Subcommittee of the Physician Services Committee (PSC) comprised of members from the OMA, Ontario Hospital Association, Local Health Integration Networks, and the Ministry was tasked with providing recommendations for investment of this funding.

As implementation of remaining recommendations and related communications continues, the PSC has agreed to process the outstanding portion of the 2012/13 (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013) period investment as an additional payment to participating Hospital On-Call Coverage (HOCC) groups. Details regarding the calculation of the additional one-time payments are noted below.

Information regarding the implementation of remaining investments will be communicated once finalized.

## **Level I, II, and III HOCC Groups**

The 2012/13 additional one-time payment for Level I, II, and III HOCC groups will be based on the number of physicians in each group at the end of the 2012/13 period (including all changes affecting 2012/13 groups submitted to the Ministry by April 30, 2013). Funding will be calculated as follows:

Number of Physicians in HOCC Group	Enhanced			Base		
	Level I AB123	Level I & II Not AB123	Level III	Level I AB123	Level I & II Not AB123	Level III
1	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$2,000
2	\$9,500	\$19,000	\$4,000	\$4,250	\$8,500	\$2,000
3	\$13,000	\$26,000	\$2,000	\$5,750	\$11,500	\$1,000
4	\$8,500	\$17,000	\$2,000	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$1,000
5 or more	\$4,200	\$8,400	\$1,200	\$1,900	\$3,700	\$500

**Note:** Level A, B, 1, 2 and 3 Hospitals are set out in the Alternative Funding Agreement for Emergency Services.

Calculation of the 2012/13 additional one-time payment follows the same general methodology as was used for the 2011/12 additional one-time payment (see bulletin #4581).

It is anticipated that funding will be allocated to affected hospitals by the end of September 2013. Each hospital will receive a separate payment report which will provide details of this additional payment.

#### **Level IV Infectious Diseases**

The 2012/13 additional payment is for physicians who were participating in the HOCC program (listed in a Level IV Specialist Report – HOCC agreement Appendix “C”) as a Level IV Infectious Disease physician during fiscal 2012/13 (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013), and who did not participate and/or receive payment as part of a Level I, II or III HOCC group.

A payment in the amount of \$10,000 minus the total of Level IV eligible claims for HOCC services rendered between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013 will be made to each eligible physician. An eligible Level IV claim is a claim where the infectious disease physician is on-call, performs a special visit and submits a claim in accordance with current HOCC Level IV requirements.

Late submission of Level IV claims (claims submitted more than 6 months after the service date) will not be processed or considered in the eligibility for this payment.

It is anticipated that funding will be allocated to affected hospitals by the end of December 2013. Funding will be allocated to the hospital at which the eligible physician has provided the most Level IV services. Each hospital will receive a separate payment report which will provide details of this payment, including a listing of the specific physicians and the amount of the payments to be processed.

The Subcommittee has also recommended Infectious Disease physicians be moved to Level III HOCC. Further details regarding this change will be communicated to affected sites in April 2013.

## **Physician On-Call (POC) in Long-Term Care Facilities**

Changes to the annual funding of POC in Long-Term Care Facilities effective April 1, 2011 include:

- Removal of the \$30,000 funding ceiling;
- Increase of the minimum funding to \$12,500 for facilities with fewer than 30 beds; and
- Increase of the minimum funding to \$15,000 for facilities with between 30 and 150 beds.

The per-bed funding amount of \$100 remains unchanged for facilities with 150 beds or more.

Communication and retroactive funding for fiscal 2011/12 (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012) were provided to affected Long-Term Care facilities in January 2013. Ongoing funding (beginning April 1, 2012) is anticipated to be allocated in spring of 2013. Revised funding guidelines have been posted at: [www.LTChomes.net](http://www.LTChomes.net)

### **Appeals**

Physician Groups or Hospitals/Long-Term Care facilities who feel they may be entitled to receive a new or revised additional one-time payment for HOCC Level I-III or POC as set out above, and physicians who feel they may be entitled to receive a new or revised additional payment for HOCC Level IV as set out above, must work with their respective site HOCC/POC coordinators to submit a written request for review by the Ministry (contact information below). For clarity, all appeals are to be provided to the Ministry by a Hospital or Long-Term Care facility.

Documentation must be provided in support of the appeal including proof of physician enrolment in a HOCC Level I-III group or proof of claims submitted for HOCC Level IV physicians.

**Requests for appeal of 2011/12 additional one-time payments must be submitted to the Ministry by June 30, 2013.**

Requests for appeal of 2012/13 additional one-time payments must be submitted to the Ministry within 90 days of funding.

### **Contact Information**

Further details relating to this program may be obtained by contacting the HOCC Program at:

Hospital On-Call Coverage Program  
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Services Branch  
370 Select Drive, Kingston ON K7M 8T4  
Telephone: 1-866-684-8620  
Fax: (613) 536-3186  
Email: [OnCall@ontario.ca](mailto:OnCall@ontario.ca)

Additionally, inquiries may be directed to the OMA at: [Negotiations@oma.org](mailto:Negotiations@oma.org)