

INFOBulletin

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

To: Physicians

Published by: Health Services Branch

Date Issued: January 26, 2016

Bulletin #: 4664

Re: Accreditation Requirement for Echocardiogram Services

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Changes to the Schedule of Benefits Effective April 1, 2016

Effective April 1, 2016, new requirements must be met in order for echocardiography services to be eligible for payment. Please refer to [InfoBulletin #4657](#), posted September 14, 2015 for further details on accreditation requirements.

Note: The accreditation requirement does not currently apply when physicians provide services in facilities exclusively to patients 17 years or younger, or for perioperative transesophageal echocardiograms.

Where physicians provide echocardiogram services at the same facility to both adults and individuals aged 17 years or younger, the physician must ensure that the facility meets the new payment requirements for adult echocardiogram services.

What must be done prior to April 1, 2016?

Prior to April 1, 2016 if physicians will be performing insured services at a facility, the facility should do the following:

1. **Review the Cardiac Care Network voluntary echocardiography quality improvement (EQI) program** for facilities where echocardiograms are performed. Information about the accreditation process can be found at <http://www.ccnecho.ca>.

2. **Apply for the CCN EQI program by April 1, 2016.** The application process requires the facility to identify the physicians who are providing services at the facility. Physicians providing services at accredited facilities or facilities that applied for the CCN EQI program by April 1, 2016 will continue to be eligible to be paid for ECHO services. After application, if not yet accredited, the facility must actively be participating in the accreditation processes defined by CCN.
3. **Apply for an OHIP group number.** Echocardiography facilities will need to apply and be issued a group billing number. The group number will be the number used to identify a facility as having completed the CCN EQI program or having applied for the CCN EQI program. Even if the facility only has one physician, a group number is required. If the echocardiography facility already has an OHIP group number, that facility does not have to apply for a new number. Further information about application for a group number can be found at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/forms/ohip_fm.aspx. Please refer to form # 022-84.
4. **As part of the application process,** the facility will be required to advise the CCN EQI program of their OHIP group number. CCN will advise OHIP which facilities have registered and successfully completed the EQI program and which facilities are registered and actively participating.
5. **Facilities must ensure that physicians providing insured echocardiography services in the facility are registered to the facility group number.** The MOHLTC requires that all payment claims made to OHIP must include the facility group number.
6. **Physicians working at multiple facilities will need to be affiliated to each facility group number where the echocardiography services are provided.**
7. **If your facility has already been accredited by the CCN, your facility must still acquire a group number and provide that number to CCN.**

After April 1, 2016

1. Facilities that have applied for the CCN EQI process must be actively involved in completing the CCN process. Active participation is defined by the parameters of the CCN EQI program.
2. Facilities that are accredited will need to advise the CCN EQI program if a new physician providing services has joined the facility and is registered to the assigned OHIP group number. New physicians providing insured echocardiogram services at a facility that has been accredited will be required to submit documentation to the CCN EQI program for review, within a specified time frame.
3. Facilities that are accredited will need to advise the CCN EQI program if a new site is added. Information regarding the new site will need to be submitted to the CCN EQI

program for review before the physicians are eligible for payment for insured services at the new site.

4. Physicians performing echocardiograms on individuals 17 years of age or less may submit their claims with or without a group number. The professional and technical fee will not be affected by system changes.
5. If you have questions about the Standards for Provision of Echocardiography in Ontario, please visit <http://www.ccnecho.ca/Standards/DownloadStandards.aspx> or contact the CCN EQI program at echo@ccn.on.ca

If you have questions about physician billing eligibility for claims submission/payment and/or a group billing number, please consult

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/publications/ohip/ohip_billing.aspx

The full details of the changes to the Schedule can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/sob/sob_mn.html

Hard copies of the Schedule will not be distributed. If you would like to order a paper copy or compact disk (CD) of the Schedule for a fee, please visit

<https://www.publications.serviceontario.ca>

Physicians without access to the Internet can contact ServiceOntario at 1-800-668-9938.

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