

Bulletin



Bulletin Number 4489	Date February 6, 2009	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care OHIP Claims Offices (addresses below)
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: 2008 Physician Services Implementation Update

This Bulletin provides information about the one-time 3% payment on the value of eligible services rendered October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 per the provisions of the 2008 Physician Services Agreement. Further information is available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/bulletins/4000/bulletin_4000_mn.html

1. 3% Payment Schedule

The initial 3% payment will be issued with the February 2009 remittance and will include all eligible professional services rendered in the months of October, November, December 2008 and January 2009. Starting March 2009, each remittance summary will include a 3% payment until all eligible professional services rendered October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 have been processed. Since physicians can submit claims up to six months from the date of service, the 3% payment will be applied to eligible fee-for-service claims processed up to March 31, 2010 and the final payment will occur with the April 2010 remittance.

2. 3% Payment Reporting

The 3% payment is being made as a lump sum payment and details will be reported separately on the Remittance Advice (RA). The group RA will include a payment breakdown for each group physician.

3. Services Eligible for 3% Payment

The following services are eligible:

- a) professional services
- b) fee-for-service premiums
- c) services listed in the OHIP Schedule of Benefits paid by other ministries
- d) telemedicine services and premiums
- e) automated premiums*
- f) Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) services

* The premiums paid automatically by OHIP, such as the Age Premium based on the patient's date of birth, are eligible for the 3% payment and will be made retroactively with the March 2009 remittance.

OHIP Claims Offices			
Hamilton 119 King Street West, 10 th Floor P.O. Box 2280, Stn A L8P 4Y7	Kingston 1055 Princess Street, Suite 401 P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	London 217 York Street, 5 th Floor Station A N6A 5P9	Mississauga 201 City Centre Drive Suite 300 L5B 2T4
Oshawa Executive Tower, Oshawa Centre 419 King Street West P.O. Box 635 L1J 7J2	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9	Sudbury 199 Larch Street Suite 801 P3E 5R1	Toronto 47 Sheppard Avenue East Suite 505 M2N 7E7

4. No Schedule of Benefits Update

The 3% payment does not increase the value of the individual fee codes as listed in the *Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services* (Schedule). Accordingly, a new Schedule will not be issued and physicians should continue to submit their claims using the fees as currently listed in the Schedule.

5. Hospitals / Laboratories

Hospitals and Laboratories may receive OHIP payments for physician professional fees that are subsequently flowed to individual physicians. Although the 3% payment is reported on a separate line on the remittance advice statement, that amount represents payment for professional services rendered in the remittance payment period and is part of the total professional payment to the physician.

6. Opted-Out Physicians

Opted-out physicians will be issued the 3% payment directly and must continue to bill patients at the current rates listed in the Schedule.

7. APP, AFP, and AHSC Agreements

The clinical funding for Alternative Payment Program (APP), Alternative Funding Program (AFP) and Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) agreements are eligible for the 3% payment. The initial 3% payment is planned for the groups' February 2009 payment and will be applicable to all eligible professional base payments for the months of October 2008 to February 2009. Each subsequent monthly payment, commencing March 2009, will include a 3% payment until September 30, 2009. Payments may be adjusted in the future as APP/AFP contract details are analyzed by the parties.

8. Primary Health Care Related 3% Payments

Physicians in primary care models are eligible to receive the 3% payment for the following incentives and premiums they are entitled to as part of their agreement:

- Base Rate Capitation Payment and Reconciliation
- Comprehensive Care Premium (FHG physicians only)
- Access Bonus Payments and Reconciliation
- Newborn Care Episodic Fee (Q014A, Q015A)
- Smoking Cessation Counselling Fee (Q042A)
- FOBT Distribution and Counselling Fee (Q150A)
- Comprehensive Care Capitation Payment and Reconciliation
- Blended Fee for Service Payments
- After Hours Fee (Q012A, Q016A)
- Diabetes Management Incentive (Q040A)
- Heart Failure Management Incentive (Q050A)

Stabilization Payments: Physicians participating in the Income Stabilization Program are eligible to receive the 3% payment; further information will be communicated separately.

Salary Payments: Physicians in salaried models are eligible to receive the 3% payment on the salary payments. Further information will be communicated separately.

Payment and Reporting: The 3% payment will be directed to the Group or Solo RA where the premium is paid. In February 2009 a separate paper report, "*Three Percent General Fee Payment Report*", will be provided to the lead physician of each primary care group that has opted for group payment. This report provides payment breakdown for each physician within that primary care group. Starting in March 2009, the report will appear on the RA.

9. Additional Information

More information regarding the 3% general fee payment is available at the ministry's website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/bulletins/bulletin_mn.html

Bulletins and the updated version of the Schedule are available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/>. This Bulletin is a general summary provided for information purposes only. Physicians, hospitals and other health care providers are directed to review the *Health Insurance Act* and its regulations for the complete text of the provisions. You can access this information on-line at: www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this bulletin and the applicable legislation and/or regulation, the legislation and/or regulation prevail.