

# Bulletin



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4465	February 1, 2008	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Processing Sites
Distribution		(address below)
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

**Subject: Changes to Regulation 552 under the *Health Insurance Act***

The 2007 Methadone Maintenance Treatment Practices Task Force released its report in July 2007. The ministry is implementing a number of changes to s. 37.1 of Regulation 552 under the *Health Insurance Act* responsive to that report and to ensure consistency with other guidelines established by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. These changes were implemented December 20, 2007. Please note that the following changes do not affect payment when these services are performed in a licensed laboratory.

1. The following tests remain insured and patients cannot be charged if these tests are performed; however, they will be submitted and paid at \$0.00 when provided by physicians in a private office:
  - L006 Alcohol – quantitative
  - L034 pH
  - L053 chloride
  - L204 potassium
  - L226 sodium
2. The following rules limit the number of tests performed by physicians in their offices as follows:
  - For L073 – (target drug testing, urine, qualitative or quantitative), the maximum number of tests payable in a single day is four per patient. Any additional tests will be paid at nil.
  - When L073, L078, L079 (drugs of abuse screen, urine, broad spectrum toxicology screen) are conducted on the same patient, on the same day, the basic fee payable is the fee for the service for which the greatest number of LMS units is payable, and the basic fee payable for the other services will be paid at nil.
  - The maximum number of tests per patient for any period of seven consecutive days for L073, L078, L079 or any combination of these, and L067 (creatinine) is two. Any additional tests will be paid at nil.

Processing Sites			
<b>Hamilton</b> 119 King Street West, 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor P.O. Box 2280, Stn A L8P 4Y7	<b>Kingston</b> 1055 Princess Street, Suite 401 P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	<b>London</b> 217 York Street, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Station A N6A 5P9	<b>Mississauga</b> 201 City Centre Drive Suite 300 L5B 2T4
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3. For clarification target drug testing includes the qualitative or quantitative measurement of alcohol, performed by any method.
4. For clarification with respect to the weekly limits, one L073 test is deemed to include the testing for up to four substances.

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*, Regulation 552 and the Schedules under that regulation, for the complete text of the provisions. You can access this information on-line at: [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/](http://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 prevails.

Bulletins and the updated version of the Schedule of Benefits are available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/>.