Subject: Implementation of 2004 Physician Services Agreement.

Under Appendix K of the 2004 Physician Services Agreement, an annual amount of $4.0 million has been allocated to rural medicine and will be available starting January 1, 2008. The Medical Services Payment Committee, in consultation with the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) section of rural medicine has developed a payment program that has been approved by the OMA and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

General Practitioners and Specialists may be eligible for compensation if they have provided full time patient care during the 2006/07 fiscal year and their primary practice is located in an area designated with an OMA Rurality Index of Ontario (RIO) score equal to or greater than 45. Other conditions and limitations may apply. This payment program will use the same RIO values as other programs which use the RIO score. In addition, specialists must have active hospital privileges. Physicians with a RIO score in the eligible range will receive an application form or a letter with further information by the end of September, 2007.

For information regarding RIO scores, please refer to the OMA web site [www.oma.org/cme/](http://www.oma.org/cme/).

Physicians wishing to update their primary practice address should contact their OHIP Regional Office.

Additional information regarding this program may be found at [www.health.gov.on.ca/rmi/](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/rmi/).