INFOBulletin

To: Hospitals, Physicians
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Re: Changes to Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services: X-Rays or Ultrasounds Ordered by Nurse Practitioners for Hospital In-Patients

1. Background

Effective July 1st, 2011, registered nurses holding an extended certificate of registration (nurse practitioners) will have the authority to order diagnostic procedures for hospital in-patients. This change is the result of amendments to the Public Hospitals Act, Regulation 965.

2. Changes to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services

To ensure that physicians are eligible for payment from the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for diagnostic services ordered by nurse practitioners for hospital in-patients, two revisions have been made to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services. Specifically, references to hospital in-patients (underlined below) were added to the preambles of Section D (Diagnostic Radiology) and G (Diagnostic Ultrasound). These changes will take effect on July 1st, 2011 to coincide with the changes to the Public Hospitals Act, Regulation 965.

   o Diagnostic Radiology Preamble Revision
26. Mammography or x-ray of the chest, ribs, arm, wrist, hand, leg, ankle or foot, rendered in an Independent Health Facility or a hospital in-patient or out-patient department is insured when referred by a registered nurse holding an extended certificate of registration (RN(EC)).

    o Diagnostic Ultrasound Preamble Revision

7. Ultrasound of the abdomen, pelvis or breast, rendered in an Independent Health Facility or a hospital in-patient or out-patient department, is insured when referred by a registered nurse holding an extended certificate of registration (RN(EC)).

3. Links

    o The Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services:
      www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/sob/sob_mn.html
    
    o INFOBulletins:
      www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/bulletins/bulletin_mn.html