

# Bulletin



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| 4398  | March 6, 2003 | Ministry of Health<br>and Long-Term Care<br>Processing Office |
| Distribution                                    |               | (address below)   |
| Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories |               |   |

## Subject: Changes to Payment Thresholds for Ontario Physicians

Based on recommendations made by the Physician Services Committee, the following items are being implemented to the physician payment threshold system for services effective fiscal year 2002/03:

### New Threshold Payment System

The introduction of a new threshold payment system that eliminates the first and third threshold levels of the current three level system, combines separate GP and Specialist threshold classifications into one threshold classification level for all physicians, and provides additional exemptions from threshold reductions for hospital-based services and critical care services.

The new singular threshold payment reduction amount is 66.7% and occurs for all professional fee-for-service billings over \$455,000.

| <b>Reduction Rate</b>      |         |         |         |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Old Payment Amounts</i> | 33.3%   | 66.7%   | 75%     |
| GPs                        | 350,000 | 375,000 | 400,000 |
| Specialists                | 430,000 | 455,000 | 480,000 |
| <i>New Payment Amounts</i> |         |         |         |
| GPs                        | N/A     | 455,000 | N/A     |
| Specialists                | N/A     | 455,000 | N/A     |

### Office locations

|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Barrie</b><br>34 Simcoe St.<br>Suite 201<br>L4N 6T4                        | <b>Etobicoke</b><br>3300 Bloor St. W., Unit 142<br>M8X 2W8 | <b>Hamilton</b><br>119 King St. W<br>P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A<br>L8N 4C8   | <b>Kenora</b><br>220-808 Robertson St.<br>P9N 1X9         | <b>Kingston</b><br>1055 Princess St.<br>P.O. Box 9000<br>K7L 5A9                                 | <b>Kitchener</b><br>1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2<br>N2A 3Z8                                   | <b>London</b><br>217 York St., 5th Floor<br>P.O. Box 5700<br>Terminal A<br>N6A 1B7 |
| <b>Mississauga</b><br>201 City Centre Dr.<br>P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A<br>L5A 3M1 | <b>Newmarket</b><br>465 Davis Dr. 3rd floor<br>L3Y 8T2     | <b>North Bay</b><br>101-447 McKeown St.<br>P1B 9S9                      | <b>North York</b><br>4400 Dufferin St. Unit 4A<br>M3H 6A6 | <b>Oakville</b><br>Oakville Town Centre II<br>220 North Service Rd. W.<br>Unit P5030.<br>L6M 2Y3 | <b>Oshawa</b><br>Exec. Tower,<br>Oshawa Centre.<br>419 King St. W.<br>P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4 | <b>Ottawa</b><br>Fuller Building<br>75 Albert Street<br>K1P 5Y9                    |
| <b>Owen Sound</b><br>981 2nd Avenue E.<br>N4K 2H5                             | <b>Peterborough</b><br>550 Lansdowne St. W.<br>K9J 8J8     | <b>St. Catharines</b><br>301 St. Paul St.<br>Mezzanine Level<br>L2R 7R4 | <b>Sarnia</b><br>452 Christina St. N.<br>N7T 5W4          | <b>Sault Ste. Marie</b><br>Roberta Bondar Place<br>70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100<br>P6A 6V4            | <b>Scarborough</b><br>2063 Lawrence Ave. E.<br>M1R 2Z4                                     | <b>Sudbury</b><br>199 Larch St.,<br>Suite 801<br>P3E 5R1                           |
| <b>Thunder Bay</b><br>435 James St. S. ,<br>Suite 113<br>P7E 6T1              | <b>Timmins</b><br>38 Pine St. N.,<br>Suite 110<br>P4N 6K6  | <b>Toronto</b><br>47 Sheppard Ave. E.<br>5th floor<br>M2N 7E7           | <b>Windsor</b><br>1427 Ouellette Ave.<br>N8X 1K1          | <b>Head Office</b><br>P.O. Box 48<br>Kingston, ON<br>K7L 5J3                                     |  |  |

### **Additional Exclusions to Thresholds**

Acute care "C" prefix hospital in-patient services including the listings for consultations, assessments and visits rendered to registered bed patients for services billed with a "C" prefix are excluded from the threshold.

The following critical care codes are also exempted from the threshold:

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| G210 | G391 | G401 | G406 | G522 | G558 | G601 | G604 | G620    |
| G211 | G395 | G402 | G407 | G523 | G559 | G602 | G610 | G621    |
| G303 | G400 | G405 | G521 | G557 | G600 | G603 | G611 | G800-06 |

The General Preamble, Appendix E has been updated to reflect these new exclusions. Please note, the General Preamble, Appendix E pages 3E and 4E are dated March 31, 2003, for identification purposes only.

### **Effective Date**

These changes are effective for fiscal year 2002/03. The new threshold payment system will be applied automatically to all claims submissions for services provided between April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 as early as April Remittance Advice.

### **SRI Program**

The ministry is in the process of reviewing SRI Program applications and will communicate with all applicants regarding the impact of these changes.

### **Communication**

Bulletins and the updated version of the Schedule are available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care web-site at [www.gov.on.ca/health/](http://www.gov.on.ca/health/).

These Schedule pages will be mailed separately.