

Bulletin



Bulletin Number	Date	Direct inquiries to
4412	September 3, 2004	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Processing Office
Distribution		(address below)
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: Cord Blood Testing / Changes to Ontario Regulations 552 and 682 and to the Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services

The purpose of this Bulletin is to advise of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care policy regarding coverage for services in relation to umbilical cord blood testing and banking and also to advise of the ministry's intention to discontinue laboratory testing by the Public Health Laboratories (PHLs) for the purpose of umbilical cord blood testing and umbilical cord blood banking.

The Ontario Health Insurance Plan is administered in accordance with the provisions of the *Health Insurance Act* (HIA) and Ontario Regulation 552. The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) insures those medically necessary physician services and laboratory services that are specifically listed in the "Schedule of Benefits" for physician services or in the "Schedule of Laboratory Benefits". Physician services are subject to the exclusions specified in Section 24 of Ontario Regulation 552. Further, a service is also not insured if provided by a laboratory, physician or hospital in support of certain services deemed under Ontario Regulation 552 not to be insured. Generally, in those circumstances where a physician or a laboratory service is not medically necessary or is not specifically listed in one of the Schedules, coverage may not be provided.

Physician and laboratory services provided for the purpose of umbilical cord blood testing and for umbilical cord blood banking are not insured services as cord blood testing and cord blood banking are not medically necessary for the patient. Accordingly, any service provided in relation to cord blood testing or cord blood banking, such as procurement, processing, storage and any other operational or administrative procedure, is also not an insured service.

As a laboratory service specifically requested for umbilical cord blood testing and umbilical cord blood banking purposes is not an insured service, PHLs of the ministry will no longer support any laboratory testing for the purpose of umbilical cord blood banking effective October 15, 2004. The ministry has advised the companies involved in umbilical cord blood banking in Ontario of this change.

The ministry recognizes that there are circumstances in which the same laboratory services required for the provision of insured prenatal and neonatal services, such as those for screening of infectious diseases, may also be of assistance to cord blood banking facilities. The results of these medically necessary insured tests may be shared with cord blood bank operators by the health care provider should appropriate consent be obtained from the parties involved.

Office locations

Barrie 34 Simcoe St. Suite 102 L4N 6T4	Etobicoke 3300 Bloor St. W., Unit 142 M8X 2W8	Hamilton 119 King St. W P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A L8N 4C8	Kenora 220-808 Robertson St. P9N 1X9	Kingston 1055 Princess St. P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	Kitchener 1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2 N2A 3Z8	London 217 York St., 5th Floor P.O. Box 5700 Station A N6A 4L6
Mississauga 201 City Centre Dr. P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A L5A 3M1	Newmarket 465 Davis Dr. Unit 108 L3Y 8T2	North Bay 101-447 McKeown Ave. P1B 9S9	North York 4400 Dufferin St N M3H 6A8	Oakville Oakville Town Centre II 220 North Service Rd. W. L6M 2Y3	Oshawa Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419 King St. W. P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9
Owen Sound 981 2nd Avenue E. N4K 2H5	Peterborough 550 Lansdowne St. W. K9J 8J8	St. Catharines 301 St. Paul St. Mezzanine Level L2R 3M8	Sarnia 452 Christina St. N. N7T 5W4	Sault Ste. Marie Roberta Bondar Place 70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100 P6A 6V4	Scarborough 2063 Lawrence Ave. E. M1R 2Z4	Sudbury 199 Larch St., Suite 801 P3E 5R1
Thunder Bay 435 James St. S., Suite 113 P7E 6T1	Timmins 38 Pine St. N., Suite 110 P4N 6K6	Toronto 47 Sheppard Ave.E. Suite 417 M2N 7E7	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1	Head Office P.O. Box 48 Kingston, ON K7L 5J3		

Addition of Inhibin and Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein type A to Ontario Regulations 552 and 682, and to the Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services

This will advise of changes to Ontario Regulation 682, made under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.L.1. and to Ontario Regulation 552, made under the *Health Insurance Act*.

The following amendments have been made to Ontario Regulation 682:

- a) Addition of Inhibin and Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein type A (PAPP-A) to Appendix B.

This regulation change has been made so that midwives are authorized to order these tests and the Maternal Serum Screening (MSS) designated hospital laboratories can examine these specimens at their request.

- b) Addition of Inhibin and Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein type A (PAPP-A) to Appendix C

This regulation change has been made so that registered nurses who hold an extended certificate of registration under the *Nursing Act*, 1991 (nurse practitioners) are authorized to order these tests and the Maternal Serum Screening (MSS) designated hospital laboratories can examine these specimens at their request.

As a result of the changes to Appendix C, Schedule 22 of Ontario Regulation 552, made under the *Health Insurance Act*, has been amended to reflect the addition of Inhibin and PAPP-A in order to ensure that these two tests are insured hospital services when ordered by nurse practitioners.

This amendment also includes the revision of the Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services to reflect addition of the following L codes and changes made to the preamble:

- L350 Inhibin
- L351 Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein type A (PAPP-A)
- Preamble, Paragraph #27: "The following cannot be claimed when tests are done, either individually or in any combination, for fetal assessment: L311, L318, L350, L351, L691."