

Bulletin



Bulletin Number 4461	Date December 20, 2007	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Office Locations (address below)
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: Implementation of 2004 Physician Services Agreement and 2007 Re-assessment Memorandum of Agreement effective January 1, 2008 - Amendments to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services.

1. Fee increases
2. New fee schedule codes
3. Revisions to existing fee code descriptors
4. Changes to the payment of operative anaesthesia services
5. Surgical assistant base units
6. Deleted fee codes
7. Amendment charts

In keeping with the provisions of the 2004 Physician Services Agreement, a number of changes to the Schedule of Benefits are to be implemented effective January 1, 2008. In addition to a number of fee increases outlined in Appendix L of the Agreement, funding allocations have been made under Appendix K of the Agreement to **Diagnostic Radiology, Cardiac Diagnostics, Vascular Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Nuclear Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine, and Plastic Surgery** under this process. It is recommended that physicians practicing in these areas carefully review the Schedule for changes that may affect them.

1. Fee increases

Effective January 1, 2008, fee increases to specific fee codes will be implemented. These fee increases are summarized in Chart 1.

2. New fee schedule codes

Effective January 1, 2008, new fee codes will be introduced. These fee codes are summarized in Chart 2.

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 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 1400 1st Ave. W Suite # 2. N4K 6Z9	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	Toronto-Downtown 777 Bay St. Suite M212 M5G 2C8	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1	Head Office P.O. Box 48 Kingston, ON K7L 5J3	

3. Revisions to existing fee code descriptors

In keeping with the provisions under Appendix K of the 2004 Physician Services Agreement, a number of revisions will be made to the wording/definitions of some existing fee codes in order to reflect revised insurability criteria for certain procedures effective January 1, 2008. These revisions are summarized in Chart 3.

4. Changes to the payment of operative anaesthesia services

Effective January 1, 2008, time units should be billed for each 15 minutes or part thereof:

Up to and including the first hour	1 unit
After the first hour up to and including the first 1.5 hours	2 units
After 1.5 hours	3 units

Time units are calculated on the basis of time spent by the anaesthesiologist and commence when the anaesthesiologist is first in attendance with the patient in the operating room for the purpose of initiating anaesthesia and end when the anaesthesiologist is no longer in attendance (when the patient may safely be placed under customary post-operative supervision). In addition, the basic unit fee will be increased from \$12.51 to \$13.24.

5. Surgical assistant base units

Effective January 1, 2008, the minimum basic units provided by surgical assistants for a number of surgical procedures will increase from five to six units and the basic unit fee will be increased from \$10.40 to \$11.40.

6. Deleted fee codes

In keeping with the provisions under Appendix K of the 2004 Physician Services Agreement, a number of fee schedule codes will be deleted effective January 1, 2008. In most circumstances, the service will now be claimed using a new or existing fee schedule code. These deleted fee codes are listed in Chart 4.

7. Amendment charts

- Chart 1 – Fee increases
- Chart 2 – New fee schedule codes
- Chart 3 – Revisions to existing fee code descriptors
- Chart 4 – Deleted fee codes

A revised Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services, including all amendments set out in this Bulletin, will be distributed to physicians in the new fiscal year.

Bulletins and the updated version of the Schedule reflecting January 2008 amendments are available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/>.

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/. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this bulletin and the applicable legislation and/or regulation, the legislation and/or regulation prevails.