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UPDATE # 8

Updates

March 30, 1998

2001

[September 7](#)

Status of pilot study report

On January 31 physicians from four Sections participated in a pilot study designed to test important aspects of the methodologies under consideration by the Commission. (See Phase II report and Update # 7 for a review of the pilot study.)

2000

[September 22](#)

[August 29](#)

[June 1](#)

[April 3](#)

The results of the pilot study are in the process of analysis by Drs. Streiner and Norman of McMaster University. When their final analysis is presented to the Commission, that report will be distributed more broadly. We are anticipating the release of that pilot study report as well Commission decisions about the methodology to be late in April.

1999

[November 24](#)

[October 13](#)

[September 3](#)

[July 23](#)

[February 15](#)

Commission meetings and consultations continue

While the Commission awaits the results of the pilot study from McMaster University, the Commission has been busy with the practice cost and opportunity cost studies as well as other activities as mentioned in the Phase II report, including refinements to the glossary and work on assembling time data.

In addition, the Commission continues its briefings with both the Ontario Medical Association and the Ministry of Health. Last week, members of the Commission met with Minister of Health Elizabeth Witmer and provided her with an update on the Commission's progress. As well, Commission Chair John Wade met with the Physician Services Committee and the Ministry of Health's Senior Management Committee.

1998

[November 18](#)

[October 6](#)

[September 25](#)

[September 18](#)

[September 9](#)

Practice cost study underway

After a series of consultations in the fall of 1997, the Commission made the decision that the determination of variations in and variables affecting the cost of practice was an essential step in developing a RBRVS. Furthermore, the OMA Sections strongly recommended that the study of practice costs be done by independent experts.

Price Waterhouse has been engaged by the RBRVS Commission to provide an independent determination of practice costs for Ontario physicians. Key to this project

[July 3](#)

will be a survey of all physicians who bill fee for service in the province.

[May 29](#)

Price Waterhouse will be meeting with the Section Chairs and RBRVS representatives on April 1 to provide an overview of their study and to receive input from the Sections.

[April 8](#)

March 30

[February 4](#)

Derivation of opportunity costs

1997

The firm of Watson Wyatt has been contracted to determine the inclusion of lost opportunity costs of postgraduate training as a specialty specific resource input into developing the RBRVS. The methodology and application will provide a clear, understandable and validated evaluation of the relative lost opportunity cost of postgraduate training amortized over the working lifetime of each specialty.

[November 19](#)

[October 23](#)

[September 4](#)

[August 7](#)

Final Commission recommendations in the fall of 1998

[July 29](#)

The Commission continues to make significant progress in fulfilling its mandate. However, due to the scheduling and timeline realities of a number of outstanding tasks and projects, the Commission has informed both the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Medical Association that the June 1998 deadline for final recommendations will not be met. The Commission is now working toward a deadline of the fall of 1998 for providing final recommendations on a RBRVS. While the Commission recognizes the importance of deadlines, it is not willing to jeopardize its commitment to scientific validity, necessary due process and a responsible fulfillment of its mandate.

[July 2](#)

Previous updates are available on our [Website](#).