



Bulletin number	Date	Direct inquiries to
4240	September 9, 1991	Ministry of Health Medical Consultants
Distribution		(address below)
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject NEW OUT-OF-COUNTRY HOSPITAL PAYMENT POLICY

Ontario's payments for out-of-country hospital services have escalated rapidly and have more than doubled in the past three years to over \$200 million. This new policy will provide a mechanism to improve our management of health-care resources and ensure access to appropriate services in Ontario.

Effective October 1, 1991, out-of-country hospital coverage will be reimbursed at Ontario fixed per diem rates of \$200 Canadian or \$400 Canadian, depending on the level of treatment received. Reimbursement at the \$400 per day level will be provided where patients require high level, intensive in-patient care in situations such as invasive surgical procedures, administration of anaesthesia and/or post surgical recovery. A limit of \$200 has been set for rehabilitative and other less medically intense care, such as substance abuse, psychiatric illness and eating disorders.

Therefore, effective October 1, 1991, Ontario residents who elect to go out-of-country for the sole purpose of receiving hospital/medical services will be eligible for reimbursement for hospital accommodation at the above per diem rates. Out-of-country physician services will be reimbursed at the OHIP Schedule of Benefits rates, as in the past.

The only exception to the above is for hospital treatment which is unavailable in Ontario or in those instances where the patient is threatened in terms of life or irreversible damage to his or her health. In such cases, **with prior written approval of the Ministry**, hospital/medical services will be paid in full.

In order for an Ontario patient to qualify for full payment for hospital/medical services, an Application for Prior Approval of Payment for Out-of-Country Health Services form will be available for completion by the patient's physician. Detailed instructions on how to complete the Ministry-provided approval form, as well as a sample of the form, will be supplied at a later date. Your cooperation regarding this matter is appreciated.

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