

bulletin



Bulletin Number 4298	Date March 3, 1997	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office <i>(address below)</i>
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, and Laboratories and Independent health Facilities		

- Subject
1. [Discounted Fees for New Physicians](#)
 2. [Mandatory Address and Practice Reporting](#)
 3. [Re-entry Positions](#)
 4. [New P.E.I. Health Card](#)
 5. [Malpractice Fees Program](#)

1. DISCOUNTED FEES FOR NEW PHYSICIANS

As part of the Interim Agreement between the [Ontario Medical Association \(OMA\)](#) and the Ministry of Health, a system of discounted fees to certain new and the Ministry physicians practising in oversupplied areas of the province is being established. This initiative is intended to encourage physicians to practice in areas of need in the province, in keeping with the goal of the Agreement to *"achieve an adequate supply and distribution of physician services throughout Ontario."*

This will affect physicians :

- who are issued a billing number after December 15, 1996, but before January 1, 2000;
- who commenced practice in Ontario less than 36 months prior to the receipt of that billing number * (see page 2); **and**
- who practice in the oversupplied areas identified below.

The following areas are designated as oversupplied for **General Practitioners**.

City of Toronto	City of Kingston
City of Scarborough	City of Ottawa
Borough of East York	City of Nepean
City of North York	City of Vanier
City of Etobicoke	City of Gloucester
City of York	City of Kanata
Town of Oakville	Village of Rockcliffe
City of Burlington	City of London

Office locations**Barrie**

30 Poyntz St.
L4M 3P2

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

Canada Life Square
Main Floor
235 King St. E.,
N2G 4N5

London

217 York St., 5th FloorP.
O. Box 5700
Terminal A
N6A 1B7

Mississauga

201 City Centre Dr.
P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A
L5A 3M1

North Bay

101-447 McKeown St.
P1B 9S9

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

59 Church St
3rd Floor
L2R 3C3

Sarnia

452 Christina St. N.
N7T 5W4

Sault Ste. Marie

Roberta Bondar Place
70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100
P6A 6V4

Sudbury

199 Larch St.,
Suite 801
P3E 5R1

Thunder Bay

435 James St. S. ,
Suite 113
P7E 6T1

Timmins

38 Pine St. N., Ste. 110
P4N 6K6

Toronto

2195 Yonge St.
P.O Box 1700 Stn. A
M5W 1G9

Windsor

1427 Ouellette Ave.
N8X 1K1

Head Office

P.O. Box 38
Kingston, ON
K7L 5J2

The following areas are designated as oversupplied for the Royal College certified **specialists** below :

Dermatologist

Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carlton

Neurologist

Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton

Paediatrician (except sub-specialists)

Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
County of Frontenac
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
County of Middlesex
Regional Municipality of Hamilton
Wentworth

Psychiatrists

Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
County of Frontenac
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
County of Middlesex

Otolaryngologist

Municipality of Metro Toronto

Fee-for-service claims for services rendered in oversupplied areas will be paid according to the following table and are subject to the annual maximum set out below.

DISCOUNTED FEES FOR NEW PHYSICIANS

	0-12 Months	12-24 Months	24-36 Months
GPs			
Fee Payable	70%	75%	80%
Annual Maximum	\$140,000	\$165,000	\$205,000
Specialists			
Fee Payable	70%	75%	80%
Annual Maximum	\$175,000	\$205,000	\$255,000

These discounts do not apply to "technical" fees, namely those listed in Bulletin 4291, pages 2 to 4. The 2.9% utilization reduction for 1995/96 does not apply to these claims.

* The 36 month period begins the first day a physician provides an insured service, or the day the physician begins working under an employment contract or any other remunerative arrangement that requires he or she to hold a certificate of registration under the Medicine Act, 1991. The period does not include services rendered by a physician holding a certificate authorizing postgraduate education or as part of a postgraduate medical education program in which he or she is enrolled.

Note :

Amounts paid to physicians under Alternate Payment arrangements are not subject to discounted fees or fee-for-service annual maximums.

Exemptions

Exemptions to the above discounted fee system apply to a physician :

- who entered into a binding arrangements on or before December 15, 1996 to practice in a designated oversupplied area;
- who has an agreement with an Academic Health Science Centre that includes a commitment to research, teach and/or carry out other academic activities of at least 20 hours per week;
- who falls within one of the domains of medical practice identified below :
- A psychiatrist who receives a majority of gross income from services provided to patients under 20 years old or 60 years or more, or in a mental health facility listed in Schedule 1, 2 or 3 of Regulation 741 under the Mental Health Act;
- A physician who routinely provides services to patients of provincial outpatient HIV clinics listed in Schedule 21 of Regulation 552 under the Health Insurance Act.;
- who for a period of at least six weeks under a written agreement provides services as a locum tenens in an oversupplied area, on behalf of a physician taking a leave of absence in relation to a birth or adoption and whose practice is not subject to discounted fees (for the period of the locum only).

Your local Ministry of Health office has information to respond to your enquiries.

[Return to main bulletin](#)

2. MANDATORY ADDRESS AND PRACTICE REPORTING

All physicians are required by regulation, to provide in writing to the Ministry of Health, an address for every place they regularly render insured services in Ontario to insured persons. In addition to each address, all physicians must indicate whether services are rendered at each such address as a locum tenens or whether the only services rendered are delegated procedures, as defined in the Schedule of Benefits.

Effective immediately, a physician must give the Ministry of Health at least 30 days advance notice of any changes to practice addresses. The Ministry may require supporting documentation to validate address information provided, and to request information on all other practice addresses. This information should be submitted to your local Ministry of Health district office upon request or

in the event of a change to existing practice information currently on file with the Ministry.

Initially, only new applicants will be required to provide practice address information as prescribed by the new regulation.

The Ministry continues to work towards improving the currency and accuracy of the addressees it maintains. Physicians may be contacted to verify and/or update the address data currently on file with the Ministry.

To support the collection of better address information, mail will be forwarded to the physician's reported practice address or a primary address if multiple addresses exist, if a general mailing address is not provided to the Ministry.

[Return to main bulletin](#)

3. RE-ENTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONTARIO GENERAL/FAMILY PHYSICIANS

The Ministry of Health is offering 10 third-year Family Medicine re-entry positions and 15 specialty re-entry positions for currently practicing Ontario general/family practitioners with independent practice certificates. These new positions are identified in the recent Ontario Medical Association/ Ministry of Health Interim Agreement.

For the 10 family medicine positions, the Ministry is interested in general/family physicians wishing to pursue one year of residency to acquire advanced skills in emergency medicine, anaesthesia or care of the elderly. For the 15 specialty positions, the Ministry is interested in general/family physicians wishing to pursue residencies in general surgery, obstetrics/gynaecology, general internal medicine, or psychiatry. Specialty training will be for the duration necessary to meet the qualifications for Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certifications.

Physicians accepted for re-entry must return service in an underserved area, domain of practice, facility or agency acceptable to the Ministry, or as part of the new Medical Service Corps. They will be required to sign contracts agreeing to provide one year of full-time service for each year of training.

Re-entry positions will be available as early as July 1, 1997 for the 1997/98 academic year. Physicians accepted may attend the Ontario medical school of their choice, providing they meet admission criteria.

If you are interested in a re-entry positions, please write to the Ministry of Health by March 20, 1997. Please indicate :

- your current certification and type of practice
- the residency program you are interested in
- preferences for the community, domain of practice, facility or agency where you wish to return service.

Write to:

Shelly Barton
Health Human Resources Policy Unit
Ministry of Health
8th Floor, Hepburn Block
TORONTO ON M7A 1R3

Facsimile Number (416) 327-0167

Candidates will be contacted by April 1 about the application and selection process.

[Return to main bulletin](#)

4. NEW P.E.I. HEALTH CARD

Ontario providers who treat out-of-province patients are advised that Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) has begun to issue new health cards and new health numbers to its residents. The card replacement process began in December 1996.

P.E.I.'s New Cards and Numbers

P.E.I.'s new plastic health cards have patient information including an individual health number on the front, and a magnetic stripe on the back.

On the front, the new cards feature a landscape scene that includes a lighthouse. The background colour is orange/red at the top, but lightens gradually to appear more yellow at the bottom. There are two colours of lettering.

In blue lettering: the P.E.I. Health and Community Services logo, and the word "Health." In gold lettering are: the patient's unique, 8-digit lifetime health number, his or her name, birth date, and sex, as well as the expiry date of the patient's card.

On the back, the magnetic stripe contains the same patient information that is shown on the front of the card.

What They Replace

New individual health cards are replacing P.E.I.'s family-based health cards, while 8-digit personal health numbers are replacing P.E.I. patients' social insurance numbers.

Claims Payment for P.E.I. Residents

For payment of claims for insured P.E.I. residents, "old" cards and numbers will be accepted until May 31, 1997. However, effective June 1, 1997, the new 8-digit P.E.I. health number must be used for claims payment.

[Return to main bulletin](#)

5. MALPRACTICE FEES PROGRAM

Further to Bulletin number 4297, dated January 31, 1997, regarding the reimbursement of malpractice fees, physicians should note the following:

- Based on the December 1996 Interim Agreement with the OMA and the results of the Dubin Report, the Ministry of Health will reimburse physicians for their Malpractice Fees based on the 1996 CMPA Schedule of Fees. Appropriate changes are being made to ministry systems to reflect this agreement.
- Physicians who have already received their 1996 reimbursement (or have recently received their reimbursements, prior to the above noted changes being implemented), based on the 1995 CMPA Schedule of Fees, will automatically receive adjustments for the difference in fees. It is anticipated that the adjustment payments will be forwarded within six weeks.

[...Previous page](#) [Bulletin Menu](#)