

bulletin



Bulletin Number 4324	Date November 30, 1998	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office <i>(address below)</i>
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, and Laboratories		

Subject **PRENATAL ULTRASOUNDS REQUESTED BY MIDWIVES**

As a result of previous agreement between the Ministry of Health and The College of Midwives of Ontario, midwives are authorized to refer patients for prenatal ultrasound (PNU). Each midwife was assigned an OHIP practitioner number to be used on PNU requisitions for referral purposes only.

As previously announced in [OHIP Bulletin 4314](#) dated June 30, 1998, the fee codes and associated definitions for prenatal ultrasound (PNU) in the Schedule of Benefits were amended July 1, 1998 to differentiate between PNU for the purpose of routine assessment of normal pregnancy and the Maternal Serum Screening Program (MSSP) versus PNU for the purposes of high risk or complicated pregnancy.

All types of PNU may be ordered by midwives as well as physicians. However, midwives are not entitled to order diagnostic ultrasounds for patients in the post-partum period.

Claims by physicians, independent health facilities and hospitals are therefore accepted against fee codes J159/J459, J160/J460, J157/J457 and J158/J458 when referred by midwives. Note that limits applied to J159/J459 and J157/J457 are 'per patient per pregnancy' regardless of source of referral.

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