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Bulletin Number 4333	Date April 12, 1999	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office <i>(address below)</i>
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, and Laboratories		

Subject **BILLING CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS FOR LABORATORY SERVICES OF FEBRUARY 22, 1996.**

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Health and the Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories (OAML), have agreed to changes to the Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services with a view to effecting annual savings of \$21.5 million. The effective date of these changes is April 1, 1999.

This bulletin provides details of these changes to the Schedule of Benefits. A new Schedule of Benefits incorporating these changes and other changes which have occurred since the publication of the last Schedule dated February 22, 1996 will be published shortly.

BILLING CHANGES

A. PRICE INCREASES

Effective April 1, 1999, the Labour Material and Supervision, (LMS) value for the following codes has been increased:

F.S. CODE	DESCRIPTION	OLD LMS UNIT	NEW LMS UNIT
L700	Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection Fee	9	15
L634	Cultures - urine	20	25
L713	Cervicovaginal specimen	14	20

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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		

A. NEW TEST - COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (L393)

Effective April 1, 1999 a new test code has been added to the Schedule. This code is to be used whenever one or more services associated with the following test codes are ordered: L372, L396, L397, L399, L417 and/or L418. **All test results are to be reported regardless of whether or not they have been ordered.**

F.S. CODE	DESCRIPTION	OLD LMS UNIT	NEW LMS UNIT
L393	Complete blood count	-	16
L372	WBC differential count	10	0
L396	Platelet count	6	0
L397	RBC count	4	0
L399	WBC count	4	0
L417	Hematocrit	3	0
L418	Hemoglobin	4	0

The Laboratory Licensing and Inspection Service will contact you if this change affects your licensed test menu. All laboratories currently licensed for any of the above six tests will automatically be licensed for L393. You do not have to apply to have the new test code added to your licence.

B. PRICE DECREASES

Effective April 1, 1999, the LMS value for the following test codes has been decreased as follows:

F.S. CODE	DESCRIPTION	OLD LMS UNIT	NEW LMS UNIT
L005	Albumin	10	5
L018	Amylase	22	5
L030	Bilirubin	10	5
L045	Calcium	10	5
L053	Chloride	6	5
L055	Cholesterol, total	10	5
L061	C02 content, C02 combining power, Bicarbonate	6	5
L066	Creatine phosphokinase	25	5

L067	Creatinine	6	5
L107	Gamma glutamyl transpeptidase	15	5
L111	Glucose	6	5
L165	Magnesium	13	5
L191	Phosphatase, alkaline	10	5
L194	Phosphorus	10	5
L204	Potassium	6	5
L208	Protein, total	10	5
L222	SGOT (AST)	10	5

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L223	SGPT (ALT)	10	5
L225	Automated chemical analyzers with simultaneously functioning channels	18	5
L226	Sodium	6	5
L243	Triglycerides	10	5
L251	Urea nitrogen (BUN)	6	5
L252	Uric acid	6	5
L306	Digoxin	40	28
L315	FSH	50	28
L319	Hepatitis associated antibody or antigen	35	28
L321	Aminophylline (Theophylline)	40	28
L328	LH (luteinizing hormone)	50	28
L329	Ferritin	40	28
L331	Progesterone	40	28
L332	Prolactin	55	28
L334	IgE	40	28
L340	Testosterone	40	28
L341	TSH	40	28
L345	Vitamin B12	40	28
L607	Free T3	30	28
L919	Hepatitis - secondary laboratory	35	28

D. CHANGES TO THE MEDICAL RULES

The description in Paragraph 14 of the old Schedule is deleted. Instead, the maximum number of units that can be claimed for L393 (Complete Blood Count) is

16 units per patient per day. The individual codes L372, L396, L397, L399, L417 and L418 should not be used. However, all six (6) test values must be reported regardless of which test(s) is (are) ordered.

The maximum number of units referred to in Paragraph 15 in the old Schedule has been deleted for any combination of the tests represented by the following codes: L005, L030, L045, L053, L061, L067, L111, L191, L194, L204, L208, L222, L223, L225, L226, L251, and L252.

The maximum number of units for L225 (Automated chemical analyzer with simultaneously functioning channels) is 5 units per patient per day.

The maximum number of units for any combination of L055 (cholesterol), L153 (lipoprotein, electrophoresis) and L243 (triglycerides) is 30 units per patient per day.

SYSTEM CHANGES

System changes have been made to the Medical Claims Payment system for claims submission effective April 1, 1999.

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