

bulletin



Bulletin Number 4342	Date July 7, 1999	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office <i>(address below)</i>
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, and Laboratories		

Subject

SPECIALIST RETENTION INITIATIVE 1999/2000 PROGRAM

Purpose of SRI

The Specialist Retention Initiative (SRI) is designed to encourage physicians to maintain services in areas of marked undersupply, and to discourage specialists who provide rare subspecialty services from leaving the province, because of thresholds.

The SRI is a transitional program intended to assist while physicians are recruited so that undersupplied conditions are eliminated or reduced. As a condition of enrolment, physicians must agree to assist in recruiting additional physicians to their areas. Recruitment will allow the physician to adjust his/her practice pattern by, for example, reallocating patients to their colleagues to avoid or minimize the effects of future threshold reductions.

Deadline for Submission

Applications must be received by the Ministry of Health at the address noted below by March 1, 2000, to be eligible for consideration. Applicants are responsible for delivery of all required documents to the ministry and must use registered mail, Priority Post or courier with signed receipt. Applications received after deadline will not be considered.

Annual Re-Application Required

All physicians who wish to renew their enrolment in SRI must submit an application, including all required documentation as well as evidence of their efforts to satisfy the recruitment provision of their SRI agreement. Demonstration of recruitment efforts will be an important consideration in determining whether applicants will be re-admitted to SRI.

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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

Eligibility for SRI

Eligibility is restricted to certified specialists whose eligible billings exceed the 1999/2000 threshold of \$400,000 and to General/Family Practitioners whose eligible billings exceed the \$320,000 threshold.

The most recent available province-wide data will be used to determine eligibility.

Physicians currently receiving Underserviced Area Program incentive grants are exempt from threshold and need not apply.

Categories for Approval - Specialists

Geographic Undersupply: The geographic area (defined as the municipality and county in which the applicant practices as well as adjoining counties) must be less than 75% of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons standard for individual specialists to be considered eligible under the category of geographic undersupply.

Provincial Resource: Highly specialized services comprise a significant portion of a specialist's workload, consideration as a provincial resource may be given. Determination is made on whether the services provided are deemed to be highly specialized with limited numbers of physicians able to perform the service. Applicants providing a routine specialty service using a different technique or technology will not be considered provincial resources.

Service Specific Exemption: Exemption of specific service codes for obstetrical deliveries, invasive cardiology and dialysis will continue in 1999/2000. When an applicant is not eligible for an exemption based on either geographic undersupply or as a provincial resource, additional filters will be applied as appropriate.

Categories for Approval – GP/FPs

Geographic Undersupply: GP/FPs who practice full-time in a community, municipality or township designated as underserviced by the ministry with a complement of four or fewer GP/FPs, which has 75% or less of the recommended complement (one or more vacancies), may be eligible for exemption.

Undersupplied Domains of Practice: GP/FPs who practice in undersupplied domains of practice (HIV/AIDS, palliative care, and French language services) may be eligible for exemption. A physician who applies for a threshold exemption under this category must provide a significant portion of his/her services within the undersupplied domain of practice.

Special Consideration: GP/FPs who can demonstrate that their practice contains significant differences from other GP/FP practices may apply for exemption based on special consideration. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Service Specific Exemption: Exemption of specific service codes for obstetrical deliveries will continue in 1999/2000. When an applicant would not be eligible for an exemption based on any other category, this additional filter will be applied as appropriate.

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Obtaining an Application Package

Additional information and application packages may be obtained by telephoning (705) 670-7280, making a request by fax to (705) 670-7231 or by writing to:

Ministry of Health
North Region
Health Care Programs
4th Floor, Suite 406
159 Cedar Street
Sudbury ON P3E 6A5

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