

# Bulletin



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| Bulletin Number<br><b>4360</b>                                      | Date<br><b>October 25, 2000</b> | Direct inquiries to<br><br><b>Ministry of Health<br/>Processing Office</b><br><br><i>(address below)</i> |
| Distribution<br><b>Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories</b> |                                 |                                                                                                          |

**Subject    Service Retention Initiative 2000/2001 Program**

## **Purpose of SRI**

The Service Retention Initiative (SRI) exists to encourage the provision of services in areas of undersupply.

The name has been changed from Specialist Retention Initiative to more accurately reflect the objective of ensuring reasonable patient access to the services of specialists and general practitioners.

The SRI is a program intended to encourage recruitment so that the program's 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 by, for example, redistributing patient services to their colleagues to avoid or minimize the effects of future threshold reductions.

## **Highlights of Changes for 2000/2001 Program**

The 2000/01 SRI program has remained the same as in the previous year with some clarifications made to the administration process. These changes can be highlighted as follows:

- Clarification of the geographic undersupply category and the application of adjoining counties in determining eligibility
- Clarification of service-specific exemption
- Streamlining the application form by combining both GP/FPs and Specialists into a single form
- Deadline for submission of applications has been moved ahead to February 27, 2001

## **Deadline for Submission**

Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at the address noted below by **February 27, 2001**, 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 a signed receipt. **Applications will not be considered after February 27, 2001.**

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#### Office locations

|                                                                                 |                                                                               |                                                              |                                                                                         |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Barrie</b><br>30 Poyntz St.<br>L4M 3P2                                       | <b>Hamilton</b><br>119 King St. W<br>P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A<br>L8N 4C8         | <b>Kenora</b><br>220-808 Robertson St.<br>P9N 1X9            | <b>Kingston</b><br>1055 Princess St.<br>P.O. Box 9000<br>K7L 5A9                        | <b>Kitchener</b><br>1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2<br>N2A 3Z8                              |
| <b>London</b><br>217 York St., 5th Floor<br>P.O. Box 5700 Terminal A<br>N6A 1B7 | <b>Mississauga</b><br>201 City Centre Dr.<br>P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A<br>L5A 3M1 | <b>North Bay</b><br>101-447 McKeown St.<br>P1B 9S9           | <b>Oshawa</b><br>Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419<br>King St. W.<br>P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4 | <b>Ottawa</b><br>Fuller Building<br>75 Albert Street<br>K1P 5Y9                       |
| <b>Owen Sound</b><br>981 2nd Avenue E.<br>N4K 2H5                               | <b>Peterborough</b><br>550 Lansdowne St. W.<br>K9J 8J8                        | <b>St. Catharines</b><br>59 Church St 3rd Floor<br>L2R 3C3   | <b>Sarnia</b><br>452 Christina St. N.<br>N7T 5W4                                        | <b>Sault Ste. Marie</b><br>Roberta Bondar Place<br>70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100<br>P6A 6V4 |
| <b>Sudbury</b><br>199 Larch St.,<br>Suite 801<br>P3E 5R1                        | <b>Thunder Bay</b><br>435 James St. S. ,<br>Suite 113<br>P7E 6T1              | <b>Timmins</b><br>38 Pine St. N., Ste. 110<br>P4N 6K6        | <b>Toronto</b><br>2195 Yonge St.<br>P.O Box 1700 Stn. A<br>M5W 1G9                      | <b>Windsor</b><br>1427 Ouellette Ave.<br>N8X 1K1                                      |
|                                                                                 |                                                                               | <b>Head Office</b><br>P.O. Box 48<br>Kingston, ON<br>K7L 5J3 |                                                                                         |                                                                                       |

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## **Annual Re-Application Required**

All physicians who applied for admission to the 1999/2000 SRI will automatically be mailed an application for 2000/2001.

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.

## **Obtaining an Application Package**

Additional information and application packages may be obtained by telephoning (613) 548-6561, making a request by fax to (613) 548-6309 or by writing to:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
Health Services Division  
Provider Services Branch  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 49 Place d'Armes  
Kingston, ON K7L 5J3

## **Eligibility for SRI**

Certified specialists whose eligible billings are expected to exceed the 2000/2001 threshold of \$410,000 and certified General/Family Practitioners whose eligible billings are expected to exceed the \$330,000 threshold can apply.

**NOTE:** All applicants will be required to provide supporting documentation at the time of application (for example, letter explaining special circumstances/services provided, copy of sub-specialty certificate or other proof of training where applicable, letters of support from peers and/or hospital administration). Applicants must be providing services in the specialty or sub-specialty claimed.

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 the 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.

In addition, other factors will be considered such as: travel to the closest referral centre and provision of critical care services.

**Provincial Resource:** Where highly sub-specialized services provided to the entire province or large regional referral base comprise a majority of a specialist's workload, consideration as a provincial resource will be given. Determination is made on whether the services provided are deemed to be highly sub-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:** Exemptions will be considered for obstetrical deliveries and invasive cardiology. Dialysis will continue in 2000/2001.

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## Categories for Approval – GP/FPs

**Geographic Undersupply:** GP/FPs who practice full-time in a community, municipality, or township designated as underserved 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.

In addition, other factors will be considered such as: travel to the closest referral centre and provision of critical care services.

**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 majority of his/her services within the undersupplied domain of practice.

**Special Consideration:** GP/FP's who can demonstrate that their practice is unique and provides a substantial proportion of essential and undersupplied services to his/her community

**Service Specific Exemption:** Partial exemption of specific service codes for obstetrical deliveries will continue in 2000/2001.

## Appeal Process

GP/FPs or Specialists whose application is denied and wish to appeal the decision, s/he must, within 15 days of receiving notice, request an appeal by the ministry in writing.

The request for appeal must be forwarded in writing to:

Director, Provider Services Branch  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 49 Place d'Armes  
PO Box 48  
Kingston ON K7L 5J3  
  
Fax: (613) 548-6309

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