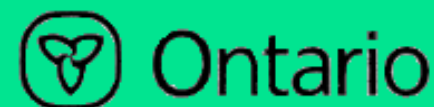


Bulletin



Bulletin Number 4378	Date November 21, 2001	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office (address below)
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories		

Subject **Clarification of Commentary Regarding Diagnostic Hearing Tests**

1. Changes to diagnostic hearing tests (DHTs) were introduced into the *Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services* and were previously announced in Bulletin 4369 dated June 22, 2001 and Bulletin 4370 dated July 9, 2001 and were effective August 13, 2001. Included in the changes was a new preamble to the DHT sub-section on page 32.1 of the Schedule as well as advisory notes identified as “[Commentary...]”. The Commentary is not part of the legal body of the Schedule but is intended to provide additional information to assist readers.
2. It has been brought to the ministry’s attention that content of the Commentary note regarding compliance with CPSO standards may be unclear. The current text in part reads:

“[Commentary:

1. *To qualify for payment, delegated DHT services must comply with both the requirements for delegation of insured services described in the General Preamble B.10 and the standards, guidelines and current policy statement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario regarding delegation and supervision of controlled medical acts. ...]*”

3. The commentary is revised as follows:

“[Commentary:

1. *Delegated DHT services - To qualify for payment, delegated DHT services must comply with the requirements for delegation of insured services described in the General Preamble B.10.*

2. *Interpretation of DHT services – To qualify for payment, the physician who claims the professional component must personally interpret the DHT and cannot delegate the interpretation to another person.*

3. *Controlled Acts - Communicating to the individual or his or her personal representative a diagnosis identifying a disease or disorder as the cause of symptoms of the individual in*

circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual or his or her personal representative will rely on the diagnosis; or prescribing a hearing aid for a hearing impaired person are controlled acts. If a physician interprets a diagnostic hearing test without communicating the diagnosis to the patient or his or her personal representative, a controlled act has not occurred. ...]”

The affected page will be updated and distributed at a future date. Attached are [questions and answers](#) with respect to this revision.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CLARIFICATION OF COMMENTARY REGARDING DIAGNOSTIC HEARING TESTS

1. Is compliance with professional standards a condition of payment for insured services?

Yes. Section 18(1) 6. of the Health Insurance Act authorizes the ministry to refuse payment for an insured service if it has not been provided in accordance with accepted professional standards and practice.

2. For OHIP payment purposes, is a physician permitted to delegate 'communicating a diagnosis' or 'prescribing a hearing aid' to non-physician employee?

No. These controlled acts are normally performed as elements of an assessment. Insured assessments must be personally performed by the physician and, for payment purposes, cannot be delegated to a non-physician.

3. Is this a change of payment policy?

No. The revision to the Commentary pertaining to delegation and supervision of DHTs represents only clarification of existing policy but now explicitly acknowledges the distinction between controlled and uncontrolled acts.

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