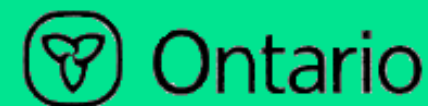


Bulletin



Bulletin Number 4379	Date November 30, 2001	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office <i>(address below)</i>
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories		

Subject Service Retention Initiative 2001/2002

The Service Retention Initiative (SRI) exists to encourage physicians to maintain services in regions with a marked undersupply and to encourage specialists who provide highly subspecialized services to remain in the province.

Physicians whose **threshold eligible OHIP billings** (i.e. total billings excluding services set out in Appendix E of the Schedule of Benefits as well as Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and Underserved Area Program (UAP) services) exceed the 2001/2002 threshold of \$420,000 for specialists and \$340,000 for General/Family Practitioners can apply for an exemption to threshold reductions through the SRI program.

Each year, the Physician Services Committee (PSC), which is made up of representatives from the Ontario Medical Association and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, reviews the SRI program eligibility criteria. For this year, the PSC has recommended continuing with the same program criteria with a few modifications. Changes include the addition of fee codes to the service specific categories.

The SRI is also a program intended to encourage recruitment so that conditions of regional physician undersupply are reduced or eliminated. 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.

Annual Application Required

All physicians who applied for admission to the 2000/2001 SRI program will automatically be mailed an application for 2001/2002. 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.

Deadline for Submission

Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on or before **February 28, 2002.**

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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 1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2 N2A 3Z8
London 217 York St., 5th Floor P.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 48 Kingston, ON K7L 5J3		

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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
2nd Floor, 49 Place d'Armes
Kingston, ON K7L 5J3

Eligibility for SRI

Only physicians whose threshold eligible billings exceed or are likely to exceed the applicable threshold during the fiscal year (April 1, 2001-March 31, 2002) are eligible for the program. Applicants must be providing and must agree to continue to provide during the balance of the fiscal year, services in the specialty, subspecialty or domain of practice for which the exemption is claimed and must submit evidence to that effect upon request. Specialists must be certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). Eligibility is limited to physicians practicing in specialties in which they are certified.

Relevant supporting documentation must be submitted with the application. For example, a letter explaining special circumstances/services provided, a copy of specialty/subspecialty certificate or other proof of training where applicable, letters of support from peers and hospital administration as required.

The most recent available provincial physician supply and population data will be used to determine eligibility.

Note: Physicians currently receiving Underserviced Area Program incentive grants are exempt from threshold reductions 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.

Provincial Resource: The provision of highly subspecialized services to the entire province or large regional referral base 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. Letters of support from colleagues attesting to the special expertise of the applicant are required.

Service Specific Exemption: Fee service code exemptions for obstetrics, invasive cardiology procedures, dialysis, retinal and glaucoma surgery will continue in 2001/2002. Fee service code exemptions for obstetrics have been expanded for 2001/2002.

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Categories for Approval – General Practitioners/Family Practitioners (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.

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 substantial proportion of his/her services within the undersupplied domain of practice.

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

Service Specific Exemption: Fee service code exemptions for obstetrics have been expanded for 2001/2002. Fee service code exemptions for HIV/AIDS and palliative care have been included for 2001/2002.

Appeal Process

Physicians whose application is denied and who wish to appeal the decision, must request, in writing, an appeal by the Ministry within 15 days of receiving the notice of denial.

The request for appeal must be forwarded in writing to:

Director, Provider Services
Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-
Term Care
2nd Floor, 49 Place d'Armes
PO Box 48
Kingston, ON K7L 5J3

or

Fax: (613) 548-6309

Full documentation in support of the appeal must be submitted within 30 days of the appeal request.

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