

Bulletin



Bulletin Number	Date	Direct inquiries to
4494	April 1, 2009	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Health Services Branch 370 Select Drive, P.O. Box 168 Kingston, ON K7M 8T4 Tel: 1-888-359-8807 Fax: 1-866-221-3536
Distribution		
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: Preferred Provider Arrangements for Prior Approved Out-of-Country Health Services

[A Regulation under the Health Insurance Act, number 552](#), authorizes the ministry to enter into preferred provider arrangements (PPAs) with out-of-country (OOC) hospitals and health facilities.

PPAs allow the ministry to negotiate packages of included services and discounted prices with OOC providers and to establish contractual conditions that are otherwise not possible. Facilities are selected for PPA status using criteria appropriate to the insured medical service that is covered by the PPA. PPAs are reviewed periodically to ensure that the selection process is current, competitive and open.

If an insured health service is covered by one or more PPAs, but an Ontario patient receives the service or an equivalent service from an OOC provider that has not entered into a PPA with the ministry, then **the amount payable is nil.**

Effective April 1, 2009, the ministry has entered into PPAs for the following services:

- Residential treatment for eating disorders, substance abuse, and psychiatric disorders
- Diagnostic imaging
- Bariatric surgery

Ontario physicians completing a *Prior Approval Application for Full Payment of Insured Out of Country Health Services* for one of the above services are advised to visit the OOC Prior Approval Program website to view a list of PPA facilities at the following link:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/ohip/outcountry_services.html.

Information, including a list of PPA facilities, may also be obtained by calling the OOC Unit at 1-888-359-8807.