

INFOBulletin

Keeping health care providers informed of payment, policy or program changes

To: Physicians

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Re: April 1, 2012 Amendments to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services: Self-Referral

The purpose of this INFOBulletin is to provide updated information related to the implementation of the self-referral provisions in the April 1, 2012 amendments to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services (Schedule). The ministry will continue to communicate with physicians regarding implementation of the April 1, 2012 changes as questions arise.

The ministry is seeking expert advice regarding the appropriate utilization of diagnostic and imaging studies through an Expert Panel that will be chaired by Dr. Barry Rubin, vascular surgeon at University Health Network. Until the ministry receives recommendations from the Expert Panel, fee codes that could be impacted by the self-referral regulation will continue to be paid at 100 per cent because the Ministry has not implemented the systems changes to reduce the specific fee codes to 50%. These payments may be impacted by the recommendations from the Expert Panel.

Please note that the requirement for a referring physician number on a payment claim for a diagnostic test will not take effect July 1, 2012. This information amends the May 8, 2012 INFOBulletin #4561.

The goal is to ensure appropriate utilization of diagnostic and imaging studies in Ontario. To ensure transparency of this process, the agendas for Expert Panel meetings and summaries of the meetings will be posted online. Further details will be communicated on how the ministry intends to implement the recommendations of the Expert Panel.

The current version of the Schedule is available at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/sob/sob_mn.html

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