

INFOBulletin

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

To: Affected Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities

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Re: Investments in On-Call Coverage – 2011/12 Additional Payments

The 2008 Physician Services Agreement (PSA) between the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the Ministry) provided for a \$20 million annual investment in on-call coverage beginning April 1, 2011.

A Subcommittee of the Physician Services Committee (PSC) comprised of members from the OMA, Ontario Hospital Association, Local Health Integration Networks, and the Ministry was tasked with providing recommendations for investment of this funding.

As the process to finalize the implementation of recommendations is continuing, the PSC has agreed to process the 2011/12 (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012) investment to the funding of Physician On-Call (POC) in Long-Term Care facilities, as well as a special 2011/12 additional payment to participating Hospital On-Call Coverage (HOCC) groups. Details regarding the calculation of the 2011/12 payments are noted below.

Information regarding program investments beginning 2012/13 (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013) and forward will be communicated once finalized.

POC in Long-Term Care Facilities

Changes to the annual funding of POC in Long-Term Care Facilities effective April 1, 2011 include:

- Removal of the \$30,000 funding ceiling;
- Increase of the minimum funding to \$12,500 for facilities with fewer than 30 beds; and
- Increase of the minimum funding to \$15,000 for facilities with between 30 and 150 beds.

The per-bed funding amount of \$100 remains unchanged for facilities with 150 beds or more.

It is anticipated that retroactive funding for 2011/12 will be allocated to affected Long-Term Care facilities on January 22, 2013. The revised funding guidelines will be posted at:

www.LTChomes.net



Level I, II, and III HOCC Groups

The April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 additional payment for Level I, II, and III HOCC groups will be based on the number of physicians in each group at the end of the 2011/12 period (including all changes affecting 2011/12 groups as submitted to the ministry as of October 30, 2012). The funding will be calculated as follows:

Number of Physicians in HOCC Group	Enhanced			Base		
	Level I AB123	Level I & II Not AB123	Level III	Level I AB123	Level I & II Not AB123	Level III
1	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$2,000
2	\$9,500	\$19,000	\$4,000	\$4,250	\$8,500	\$2,000
3	\$13,000	\$26,000	\$2,000	\$5,750	\$11,500	\$1,000
4	\$8,500	\$17,000	\$2,000	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$1,000
5 or more	\$4,950	\$9,900	\$1,400	\$2,200	\$4,400	\$600

Note: Level A, B, 1, 2 and 3 Hospitals are set out in the Alternative Funding Agreement for Emergency Services.

It is anticipated that funding will be allocated to affected hospitals by the end of March 2013. Each hospital will also receive a separate payment report which will provide details of this additional payment.

Level IV Infectious Diseases

The 2011/12 additional payment is for physicians who were participating in the HOCC program (listed in a Level IV Specialist Report – HOCC agreement Appendix “C”) as a Level IV Infectious Disease physician during fiscal 2011/12 (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012), and who did not participate and/or receive payment as part of a Level I, II or III HOCC group.

A payment in the amount of \$10,000 minus the total of Level IV eligible claims for services rendered between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012 will be made to each eligible physician. An eligible Level IV claim is a claim where the infectious disease physician is on-call, performs a special visit and submits a claim in accordance with current HOCC Level IV requirements.

Late submission of Level IV claims (claims submitted more than 6 months after the service date) will not be processed or considered in the eligibility for this payment.

It is anticipated that funding will be allocated to affected hospitals by the end of March 2013. Funding will be allocated to the hospital at which the eligible physician has provided the most Level IV services. Each hospital will also receive a separate payment report which will provide details of this payment, including listing the specific physicians and the amount of the payments to be processed.

The Subcommittee has also recommended Infectious Disease physicians be moved to Level III HOCC. Further details regarding this change will follow at a later date.

Contact Information

Further details related to eligibility requirements and the processing of these payments may be obtained by contacting the HOCC Program at:

Hospital On-Call Coverage Program
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Services Branch
370 Select Drive, Kingston ON K7M 8T4
Telephone: 1-866-684-8620
Fax: (613) 536-3186
Email: HOCC@ontario.ca

Additionally, inquiries may be directed to the OMA at: negotiations@oma.org