

INFOBulletin

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

To: Community Laboratories

Published by: Laboratories and Genetics Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Date Issued: March 20, 2018

Bulletin #: 4710

Re: Implementation of the Community Laboratory Modernization Strategy
– Amendments to the Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services

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1. Background

A number of changes have been made to the *Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services* (SOB-LS) as part of the Community Laboratory Modernization Strategy.

This bulletin describes changes to the SOB-LS dated November 7, 2017 (retroactive to April 1, 2017). Many of these changes are being implemented in the OHIP Medical Claims System for April 1, 2018. These changes reflect improvements in technology, as well as amendments to existing services and fee values. The updated SOB-LS also contains revised preambles and new commentary sections.

2. LMS Units Discontinued

The revised SOB-LS now reports fees for laboratory services in dollars. Previously, the SOB-LS reported the value of each test in Labour, Materials and Supervision (LMS) Units. The fee payable under OHIP for laboratory service delivery was calculated by multiplying the test's LMS Unit value by 51.7 cents. For example, the L060 (carboxyhemoglobin) fee code had a value of 15 LMS Units, which translated into a fee of \$7.76. In the revised SOB-LS, the L060 fee code has been assigned a value of \$7.76.

3. Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection Fee Codes

The L700 fee code for patient document and specimen collection has been revised. Several new fee codes have been introduced to differentiate between specimen collection that occurs in different geographic areas of the province.

Effective April 1, 2017, the L700 fee code should only be billed when performed in an urban area. Definitions for urban, rural, and northern rural areas are located in the SOB-LS preamble.

Updated Fee Codes (effective April 1, 2017):

Fee Code	Description	Fee
L700	Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection Fee (Urban)	\$10.76
L777	Patient Documentation and Specimen Pick-up Fee (Pick-up only)	\$7.76
L778	Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection Fee (Rural)	\$12.76
L779	Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection Fee (Northern Rural)	\$14.26

Payment rules:

1. The above codes are limited to one per patient, per day for any one of the *Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection / Pick-Up Fee codes*. (Only one of L700, L777, L778 or L779 can be billed per patient per day by any provider).
2. Not allowed to the recipient of a referred sample from another laboratory.
3. Not applicable to a patient visit solely to receive instructions or collection containers.
4. L700, L778, and L779 can only be claimed if an employee of the laboratory had performed the specimen collection on the patient. Otherwise L777 should be claimed.
5. When multiple tests are ordered for the same patient, for the same day, only one *Patient Documentation and Specimen Collection / Pick-Up Fee code* may be claimed even though all specimens may not be available on any one day.

6. Patients with multiple Laboratory Requisitions shall be accommodated on the same visit.

Not applicable to items under anatomical pathology, histology and cytology sections (fee codes L701 to L733 inclusive, L800 - L869 inclusive) and codes L179, L354, L358 and L750.

4. Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing

Effective April 1, 2017, a new L750 code has been introduced for the non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT). This code can only be claimed by laboratories that have entered into an agreement with the ministry under the Provision of Genetic Testing Agreement for Prenatal Screening. The L750 should not be billed with other fee codes including L700, L777, L778, and L779.

5. Revised Fee Codes

Effective April 1, 2017, 203 test codes have been updated with revised fees. These changes take effect on April 1, 2018, in the claims system. The tables attached to this bulletin detail those changes.

6. Delisted Fee Codes

Effective April 1, 2017, 110 obsolete test codes have been deleted from the claims system because those procedures are no longer clinically relevant and have since been replaced by other methods. These changes take effect on April 1, 2018, in the claims system. The tables attached to this bulletin detail those deletions.

7. Shadow billing and changes to payments

Effective April 1, 2018, claims submitted for community laboratory services rendered on or after April 1, 2018, will be approved at the Fee Schedule Master (FSM) value but paid at \$0. Medical payment rules will still apply to all claims submitted but all shadow billed claims will be paid at \$0 in the claims system. Services with service dates prior to April 1, 2018, will continue to pay fee-for-service and according to the old FSM values.

The Utilization Discount Modifier (UDM) will not apply to the calculation of payments for services rendered on or after April 1, 2017.

Manual reconciliation will be applied to all claims rendered in 2017-18 fiscal year to correct for differences between the SOB-LS and the claims system.

8. Links to additional information

Tables detailing all of the fee code changes referenced within are available as attachments to this bulletin at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/bulletins/4000/bulletin_4000_mn.html

The updated SOB-LS will be made available in the coming weeks at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ohip/sob/

This Bulletin is a general summary provided for information purposes only. Physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers are directed to review the *Health Insurance Act*, Regulation 552, and the Schedules under that regulation, for the complete text of the provisions. You can access this information at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this bulletin and the applicable legislation and/or regulations, the legislation and/or regulations prevail.

Table 1 – Fee Changes – Effective April 1, 2017

Fee Schedule Code	Previous Fee	April 1, 2017 Fee
L002	\$18.10	\$16.46
L005	\$2.59	\$1.28
L006	\$12.93	\$10.34
L015	\$20.16	\$14.22
L018	\$2.59	\$2.25
L019	\$12.93	\$15.78
L026	\$18.10	\$7.76
L027	\$31.02	\$21.45
L030	\$2.59	\$1.28
L031	\$5.17	\$1.28
L040	\$18.10	\$10.34
L041	\$20.68	\$21.45
L045	\$2.59	\$1.16
L046	\$10.34	\$10.00
L048	\$12.93	\$9.12
L049	\$8.27	\$15.78
L051	\$41.36	\$29.16
L053	\$2.59	\$1.28
L055	\$2.59	\$1.28
L057	\$15.51	\$4.98
L059	\$12.93	\$10.34
L061	\$2.59	\$1.28
L063	\$20.68	\$14.52
L066	\$2.59	\$1.28
L067	\$2.59	\$1.28
L068	\$7.76	\$1.03
L073	\$8.79	\$2.59
L074	\$20.68	\$21.45
L076	\$18.10	\$21.45
L077	\$18.10	\$10.34

Fee Schedule Code	Previous Fee	April 1, 2017 Fee
L078	\$35.16	\$10.34
L079	\$37.22	\$28.98
L085	\$18.61	\$17.58
L086	\$25.85	\$25.04
L092	\$18.10	\$10.34
L093	\$10.86	\$7.25
L103	\$12.41	\$10.34
L107	\$2.59	\$1.28
L111	\$2.59	\$1.28
L117	\$8.79	\$2.00
L122	\$25.85	\$18.23
L130	\$46.53	\$19.10
L139	\$14.99	\$1.28
L145	\$13.96	\$9.84
L146	\$5.17	\$1.28
L148	\$20.68	\$11.60
L150	\$11.37	\$2.37
L157	\$5.17	\$10.34
L160	\$18.10	\$10.34
L161	\$18.10	\$20.68
L165	\$2.59	\$1.28
L168	\$15.51	\$10.89
L169	\$38.78	\$32.81
L170	\$46.53	\$32.81
L172	\$10.86	\$5.22
L181	\$1.55	\$1.28
L183	\$5.17	\$2.73
L184	\$20.68	\$6.02
L188	\$15.51	\$20.68
L191	\$2.59	\$1.28

Fee Schedule Code	Previous Fee	April 1, 2017 Fee
L192	\$14.99	\$6.02
L194	\$2.59	\$1.16
L202	\$38.78	\$15.78
L204	\$2.59	\$1.16
L208	\$2.59	\$1.16
L211	\$18.10	\$10.34
L212	\$18.10	\$10.34
L213	\$18.10	\$10.34
L215	\$9.31	\$10.34
L216	\$15.51	\$13.44
L221	\$6.20	\$10.34
L222	\$2.59	\$1.28
L223	\$2.59	\$1.28
L226	\$2.59	\$1.16
L229	\$13.96	\$10.34
L243	\$2.59	\$1.28
L251	\$2.59	\$1.28
L252	\$2.59	\$1.16
L253	\$2.59	\$2.15
L254	\$1.03	\$1.44
L257	\$18.10	\$10.34
L261	\$31.02	\$24.98
L266	\$12.93	\$9.12
L300	\$62.04	\$25.85
L301	\$62.04	\$10.34
L303	\$18.10	\$5.87
L304	\$20.68	\$10.34
L305	\$38.78	\$15.51
L306	\$14.48	\$10.34
L307	\$62.04	\$20.68
L308	\$5.17	\$3.11
L309	\$18.10	\$11.00

Fee Schedule Code	Previous Fee	April 1, 2017 Fee
L310	\$28.44	\$7.08
L311	\$38.78	\$5.17
L313	\$38.78	\$25.85
L315	\$11.37	\$4.61
L316	\$38.78	\$25.85
L317	\$20.68	\$10.34
L318	\$15.51	\$3.29
L319	\$14.48	\$10.25
L321	\$14.48	\$10.34
L325	\$20.68	\$6.14
L328	\$9.31	\$4.71
L329	\$10.34	\$2.97
L330	\$62.04	\$9.39

Table 2 – Fee Code Deletions – Effective April 1, 2017

Fee Schedule Code	Fee Schedule Code	Fee Schedule Code	Fee Schedule Code
L003	L136	L377	L533
L010	L141	L385	L567
L011	L142	L388	L602
L012	L149	L389	L610
L014	L152	L396	L611
L021	L155	L397	L632
L028	L156	L399	L633
L032	L166	L401	L635
L033	L167	L404	L642
L034	L182	L417	L645
L036	L193	L418	L670
L037	L195	L430	L681
L039	L197	L434	L689
L047	L205	L435	L712
L050	L206	L438	L723
L052	L209	L442	L724
L056	L220	L443	L900
L062	L225	L444	L903
L064	L227	L446	L919
L071	L299	L454	L944
L072	L302	L461	
L096	L312	L465	
L109	L320	L502	
L121	L323	L521	
L123	L324	L522	
L125	L327	L523	
L126	L337	L526	
L127	L371	L527	
L128	L372	L528	
L129	L376	L532	