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Bulletin 240306 — Temporary increases for primary care and alternate payment programs

The ministry will temporarily increase physician payments by 2.8% for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

To: Primary Care Physicians

Category: Physician Services; Primary Health Care Services

Written by: Provider Services Branch, Physician and Provider Services Division

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Physician Services Agreement initiatives effective April 1, 2024

The Ministry of Health and the Ontario Medical Association have been working together to implement physician compensation increases in accordance with the **2021-24 PSA Year 3 Implementation and 2024-28 Procedural Agreement** (the agreement).

A 2.8% compensation increase on physician payments for the period of April 1, 2023

to March 31, 2024 will occur as described in the agreement. This will be paid as a lump sum with a targeted payment date in the Fall of 2024. Further details of this payment will be provided in a subsequent INFOBulletin.

The agreement also provides a temporary 2.8% compensation increase on physician payments for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. The temporary 2.8% increase will be applied to the value of fee schedule codes (FSCs). This will be achieved through an update to the Fee Schedule Master (FSM). The Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services will not be updated for the temporary increase.

Temporary compensation increase effective April 1, 2024

Effective April 1, 2024, the payment elements under your funding agreement identified in the table “Payment Increase Application by Contract Type” will be increased by 2.8% and will be reflected on your Remittance Advice (RA) beginning in May 2024.

For funding agreements not paid via the Medical Claims Payment System (MCPS), amendments will be made to allow for the flow of funds related to this increase as soon as practicable. Payments will be retroactive to April 1, 2024.

Also effective April 1, 2024, the Fee Schedule Master (FSM) will be updated to reflect the 2.8% increases to Fee-For-Service and Primary Care Q-codes. Claims processed through the OHIP claims system with a service date between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025 will reflect these increases and will be reported on your RA.

Payment Increase Application by contract type

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
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Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
Aboriginal Family Health Team (AFHT)	• Base Payment
Aboriginal Health Access Centre (AHAC)	• Base and Benefits Payments
Blended Salary Model (BSM)	• Base, Benefits and Locum Remuneration • Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Base Payment for Income Stabilization • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap)
Comprehensive Care Model (CCM)	• Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate
Community Health Centre (CHC)	• Base and Benefits Payments
Family Health Group (FHG)	• Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
Family Health Network (FHN) *****	• Base Rate Capitation Regular Daily Rate • Base Rate Capitation Long-Term Care Daily Rate • Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Base Payment for Income Stabilization • Base Payment for New Graduate Entry Program (NGEP) ***** • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap) *****

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
Family Health Organization (FHO)	• Base Rate Capitation Regular Daily Rate • Base Rate Capitation Long-Term Care Daily Rate • Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Base Payment for Income Stabilization • Base Payment for New Graduate Entry Program (NGEP) • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap)
General Practitioner Focus Practice (GPFP) Care of the Elderly (COE)	• Base Payment • Administration Payments • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap) • After-Hours Thresholds
General Practitioner Focus Practice (GPFP) HIV	• Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Base Payment • Administration Payments

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
	• HIV Compensation Payments • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap) • After-Hours Thresholds
General Practitioner Focus Practice (GPFP) Palliative Care (PC)	• Base Payment • Administration Payments • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap) • After-Hours Thresholds
Group Health Centre (GHC)	• Base Rate Capitation Regular Daily Rate • Base Rate Capitation Long-Term Care Daily Rate • Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling Cap (Hard Cap) • Specialist Base Payments
Inner City Health Associates (ICHA)	• Administration Payments • Homeless Shelter Agreement Thresholds

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
	• Sessional Rates
Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Team (IIPCT) *****	• Base and Benefits Payments
New Graduate Entry Program (NGEP) *****	• Base Payment
Rural and Northern Physician Group Agreement (RNPGA)	• Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Base Payments and After Hours On Call • Vacancy Locum Program • Minor Surgical Services • Obstetrics • Anaesthesia Services • Surgical Assist • Complex Surgery
Shelter Health Network (SHN) *****	• Administration Payments • Homeless Shelter Agreement Thresholds • Sessional Rates

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
Sioux Lookout Regional Physician Services Initiative (SLRPSI)	• Specialist Base Payments • Sessional Rates
St. Joseph's Health Centre (SJHC) *****	• Base Payment • Comprehensive Care Capitation Daily Rate • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling ***** Cap (Hard Cap)
Sherbourne Physician's Group (SPG) *****	• Homeless Shelter Agreement Thresholds • Sessional Rates
Toronto Palliative Care Associates (TPCA) *****	• Base Payment • Administration Payments • TPCA After-Hours On-Call Payments • Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ceiling ***** Cap (Hard Cap) • After-Hours Thresholds

Contract Type	Temporary 2.8% Application
Waterloo Region Inner City Physician Group (WRICPG)	• Administration Payments • Homeless Shelter Agreement Thresholds • Sessional Rates
Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA)	• Base Payments and After Hours On Call

Primary Care Special Premiums & Programs

Eligible Special Premiums and Programs will be temporarily increased by 2.8% effective April 1, 2024 through to March 31, 2025:

- Office Practice Administration (OPA)
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- Group Management & Leadership (GMLP)
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- Rurality Gradient Premium
- Cumulative Preventive Care Management Bonus
- Special Premiums
- Family Health Team Specialist Sessionals
- Nurse Practitioner Physician Collaboration Program
- Northern Physician Retention Initiative (NPRI)
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- Northern Rural Recruitment Retention Initiative (NRRRI)
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- Nursing Station Physician Outreach Program (NSPO)
- Psychiatry Outreach Program (OPOP)
- Visiting Specialist Clinic Program (VSCP)
- Hospital On-Call Coverage (HOCC)
- Complex Continuing Care On-Call (CCC)
- Community Palliative Care On-Call (CPOC)
- Hospital Paediatrics Stabilization Program
- Clinical Decision Unit (CDU)
- Psychiatric Stipend Funding Program
- Ontario Fertility Program (OFP)
- Rural Medicine Incentive Payment (RMIP)
- Physician On-Call (POC)
- Periodic Ocular Visual Assessment (POVA)
- Pregnancy and Parental Leave Benefit Program (PPLBP)

Specialist Physician Alternative Payment Plans

All Specialist Physician Alternative Payment Plans (APPs) are subject to the 2.8% increase. The funding will flow as soon as practicable. Payment for April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 will flow in the Fall of 2024.

Update your billing software

Please ensure that your billing software is updated to reflect the new temporary fee schedule code values for any services rendered on or after April 1, 2024, before submitting your claims.

The updated Fee Schedule Master can be found on Ontario.ca (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ohip-schedule-benefits-and-fees#section-2>) . This file will be available for download by April 8, 2024.

Keywords/Tags

PSA; payments; physicians; Physicians Services Agreement; Primary Care

Contact information

Do you have questions about this INFOBulletin? Email the Service Support Contact Centre (<mailto:SSContactCentre.MOH@ontario.ca>) or call 1-800-262-6524. Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Monday to Friday, except holidays.

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