

# PHYSICIAN'S BULLETIN

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019: Vol. LXIV, ISSUE 16



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## MSI News

### SEEKING PHYSICIAN ASSESSORS

The Nova Scotia Practice Ready Assessment Program (NSPRAP) is a new program funded by the Department of Health and Wellness and developed by multiple stakeholders to assess international medical graduates (IMGs) who have practiced abroad and would like to practice family medicine in underserved communities in Nova Scotia. Those who successfully meet eligibility requirements and pre-screening will need to be placed with experienced family physicians in our communities to determine whether they are in fact practice-ready. The internationally-trained physicians will be placed and assessed in two different communities for 6 weeks each. They are to be exposed to a variety of clinical settings but are not being assessed to provide intrapartum obstetrical care or ER care.

Physician assessors will receive assessor training, be remunerated both for the training and the 6-week assessment period and will be able to claim some Main-Pro credits.

The Assessors' primary duties are to:

- Orient the candidate to the clinical practice including local and regional healthcare services;
- Provide clinical exposures appropriate for the purpose of assessment of candidates (eg. ambulatory/clinic, ER, hospital in-patient and long term-care);
- Assess candidate's clinical skills (should be at the level of a Canadian-trained family medicine resident entering practice);
- Assess candidate's ability to communicate both verbally and in writing;
- Assess their professional demeanor and conduct with patients and colleagues; and
- Complete the required evaluation forms of the candidates' performance and any other documentation required by the program.

Physicians interested in being a physician assessor should contact Gwen MacPherson, Program Coordinator at [info@nsprap.ca](mailto:info@nsprap.ca) or Dr. Fiona Bergin, Program Clinical Director at [fiona.bergin@dal.ca](mailto:fiona.bergin@dal.ca) or 902-473-7188 for more information.

\*Candidates will be looking for short-term rentals in the communities in which they will be assessed. If you know of any in your community (whether you wish to be an assessor or not), we would appreciate you providing us with that information to share with them.



## FEE REVISION

The following health service code may now be claimed from a nursing home location:

| Category | Code   | Description  | Base Units |
|----------|--------|--|------------|
| CONS     | 03.09C | <b>Palliative Care Consultation</b>  | 62 + MU    |
|          |        | <p><b>Description</b><br/>The palliative care consultation can only be claimed by designated physicians, general practitioners or specialists, with recognized expertise in palliative care. The service provided must fulfil the normal requirements for a consultation as specified in the preamble. The consultation includes a psychosocial assessment, comprehensive review of pharmacotherapy, appropriate counselling, and consideration of appropriate community resources where indicated.</p> <p><b>Billing Guidelines</b><br/>Payable once per patient per physician<br/>Maximum 3 hours (8 multiples)<br/>Start and stop times must be recorded in the health record and in the text field of the claim when billing multiples.</p> <p><b>Specialty Restriction</b><br/>Physicians with recognized expertise in Palliative Care or Certificate of added Competence<br/>Physician must forward a letter to MSI indicating their credentials</p> <p><b>Location</b><br/>LO=HOSP, LO=OFFC, LO=HOME, LO=NRHM</p> |            |

## WCB UPDATES

### Submission Requirements

As noted in the June Physician's Bulletin, when submitting claims with a payment responsibility of WCB, one or both of the following are now required:

- Patient's WCB claim number
- Patient's Injury date (month and year)

In some cases, you may provide a service to a patient before a WCB claim exists. In these cases, the month and year of injury should be submitted.

This additional information will be used to verify that the patient was eligible for WCB coverage on the date that the service was provided. Although Medavie will be receiving WCB eligibility updates daily, you may notice a difference in the length of time it takes to process some WCB claims, as this required verification will be completed prior to the claim being paid. Confirming whether your patient is eligible for benefits at the time the claim is submitted for payment will help prevent billing errors and reduce the need for payment reversals.

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## WCB UPDATES (CONTINUED)

### Return to Work (RTW) Service

Physicians are now able to claim a WCB28 (Comprehensive Visit for Work Related Injury or Illness) or 03.03/03.03A (Limited Visit) depending upon the service provided. If you have been holding any 03.03/03.03A claims since June 27/19, these can now be submitted for payment.

### Long Term Benefits (LTB) Service

If your patient has been transitioned to receiving long term benefits, WCB no longer requires the Physician's Report Form 8/10 for follow-up visits. Generally, visits would be no more than monthly for follow-up of the original compensable injury. The health service code to be used for these visits is 03.03 or 03.03A. If WCB28 is submitted, the claim will be refused.

If your patient's condition changes and it is necessary to provide a comprehensive visit, the following interim WCB health service code is now available for billing. Under these circumstances, you may submit a Physician's Report Form 8/10 to WCB outlining the changes in the patient's condition or treatment.

| Category | Code  | Description   | Value   |
|----------|-------|---|---------|
| DEFT     | WCB31 | <b>WCB Interim Fee - Comprehensive Visit for Work Related Injury or Illness When Condition Has Changed.</b> | \$67.90 |



## Billing Matters

Billing Reminders, Updates, New Explanatory Codes

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## UPDATES

### Addendum – 03.09A

In the June 14, 2019 Physicians Bulletin HSC 03.09A was incorrectly categorized as a 'VIST' 03.09A is a consult service and is categorized as a 'CONS'.

### 2019 Cut off Dates

Please see the updated 2019 Cut off Dates as changes have been made.



## BILLING REMINDERS

### Multiple Long Bone Fractures

This is a reminder that the LV=LV85 modifier applies to certain open reduction fractures.  
The following is a list of applicable codes:

| HSC    | DESCRIPTION   |
|--------|---|
| 91.30A | Fractured humerus neck without dislocation of head - open reduction   |
| 91.30B | Fractured humerus shaft - open reduction  |
| 91.30C | Fractured humerus - epicondyle - medial - open reduction  |
| 91.30D | Fractured humerus - epicondyle - lateral - open reduction   |
| 91.30E | Fractured humerus tuberosity - open reduction   |
| 91.30F | Fractured humerus neck with dislocation of head - open reduction  |
| 91.30G | Fractured humerus - supra or transcondylar - open reduction   |
| 91.31  | Open reduction of fracture with internal fixation, radius and ulna  |
| 91.31A | Open reduction - fractured olecranon  |
| 91.31B | Open reduction - radius - head or neck  |
| 91.31C | Open reduction fractured radius or ulna - shaft   |
| 91.31D | Colles' or Smith's fracture - open reduction  |
| 91.31E | Monteggia's or Galeazzi's fracture - open reduction   |
| 91.31G | Distal comminuted intra-articular fracture of radius (to include distal ulna) due to high energy trauma. To include open reduction, internal/external fixation as required when performed in conjunction with remote donor site bone graft. |
| 91.34A | Fracture femur neck - open reduction with internal fixation   |
| 91.34B | Fractured femur - pertrochanteric - open reduction  |
| 91.34C | Fractured femur - shaft or transcondylar - open reduction   |
| 91.34D | Fracture femur neck - prosthetic replacement  |
| 91.35A | Fracture - tibia with or without fibula - shaft - open reduction  |
| 91.35B | Fractured tibial plafond, with or without fibula, open reduction and internal fixation - including removal of pre-existing internal or external fixation devices.   |
| 91.35C | Fractured tibia with or without fibula - plateau - open reduction   |
| 91.35D | Fractured ankle - single malleolus - open reduction   |
| 91.35E | Fracture fibula - open reduction  |
| 91.35F | Fractured ankle - bi or trimalleolar - open reduction   |
| 91.38A | Fractured - clavicle - open reduction   |
| 91.95C | External fixation of tibial plafond fracture  |
| 91.95D | External fixation of tibial plafond fracture, with open reduction and internal fixation of fibular fracture.  |

## NEW AND UPDATED EXPLANATORY CODES

| Code  | Description   |
|-------|---|
| VT165 | SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS HSC 03.03N CANNOT BE CLAIMED UNLESS THE PROVIDER HAS PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED FOR A MAID SERVICE WITH THE SAME PATIENT. |
| WBHOK | ELIGIBILITY APPROVED BY WCB   |
| WBHNM | WCB DID NOT RECEIVE MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR SERVICE DATE BILLED   |



## UPDATED FILES

Updated files reflecting changes are available for download on Friday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The files to download are health service (SERVICES.DAT), health service description (SERV\_DSC.DAT), and, explanatory codes (EXPLAIN.DAT).

## HELPFUL LINKS

### NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL INSURANCE (MSI)

<http://msi.medavie.bluecross.ca/>

### NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

[www.novascotia.ca/dhw/](http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/)

### CONTACT INFORMATION NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL INSURANCE (MSI)

Phone: 902-496-7011

Toll-Free: 1-866-553-0585

Fax: 902-490-2275

Email:

[MSI\\_Assessment@medavie.bluecross.ca](mailto:MSI_Assessment@medavie.bluecross.ca)

### NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Phone: 902-424-5818

Toll-Free: 1-800-387-6665

(in Nova Scotia)

TTY/TDD: 1-800-670-8888

In partnership with



## 2019 CUT-OFF DATES FOR RECEIPT OF PAPER AND ELECTRONIC CLAIMS

| PAPER CLAIMS               | ELECTRONIC CLAIMS          | PAYMENT DATE       | SALARY CONTRACT PAY PERIOD         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>December 19, 2018**</b> | <b>December 24, 2018**</b> | January 2, 2019    | December 14-27, 2018               |
| January 7, 2019            | January 10, 2019           | January 16, 2019   | December 28, 2018-January 10, 2019 |
| January 21, 2019           | January 24, 2019           | January 30, 2019   | January 11-24, 2019                |
| February 4, 2019           | February 7, 2019           | February 13, 2019  | January 25-February 7, 2019        |
| <b>February 15, 2019**</b> | February 21, 2019          | February 27, 2019  | February 8-21, 2019                |
| March 4, 2019              | March 7, 2019              | March 13, 2019     | February 22-March 7, 2019          |
| March 18, 2019             | March 21, 2019             | March 27, 2019     | March 8-21, 2019                   |
| April 1, 2019              | April 4, 2019              | April 10, 2019     | March 22-April 4, 2019             |
| <b>April 12, 2019**</b>    | <b>April 17, 2019**</b>    | April 24, 2019     | April 5-18, 2019                   |
| April 29, 2019             | May 2, 2019                | May 8, 2019        | April 19-May 2, 2019               |
| <b>May 10, 2019**</b>      | <b>May 15, 2019**</b>      | May 22, 2019       | May 3-16, 2019                     |
| May 27, 2019               | May 30, 2019               | June 5, 2019       | May 17-30, 2019                    |
| June 10, 2019              | June 13, 2019              | June 19, 2019      | May 31-June 13, 2019               |
| <b>June 21, 2019**</b>     | <b>June 26, 2019**</b>     | July 3, 2019       | June 14-27, 2019                   |
| July 8, 2019               | July 11, 2019              | July 17, 2019      | June 28-July 11, 2019              |
| July 22, 2019              | July 25, 2019              | July 31, 2019      | July 12-25, 2019                   |
| <b>August 2, 2019**</b>    | August 8, 2019             | August 14, 2019    | July 26-August 8, 2019             |
| August 19, 2019            | August 22, 2019            | August 28, 2019    | August 9-22, 2019                  |
| <b>August 30, 2019**</b>   | September 5, 2019          | September 11, 2019 | August 23-September 5, 2019        |
| September 16, 2019         | September 19, 2019         | September 25, 2019 | September 6-19, 2019               |
| September 30, 2019         | October 3, 2019            | October 9, 2019    | September 20-October 3, 2019       |
| <b>October 11, 2019**</b>  | October 17, 2019           | October 23, 2019   | October 4-17, 2019                 |
| October 28, 2019           | October 31, 2019           | November 6, 2019   | October 18-31, 2019                |
| <b>November 8, 2019**</b>  | November 14, 2019          | November 20, 2019  | November 1-14, 2019                |
| November 25, 2019          | November 28, 2019          | December 4, 2019   | November 15-28, 2019               |
| December 9, 2019           | December 12, 2019          | December 18, 2019  | November 29-December 12, 2019      |
| <b>December 19, 2019**</b> | <b>December 24, 2019**</b> | December 31, 2019  | December 13-26, 2019               |
| January 6, 2020            | January 9, 2020            | January 15, 2020   | December 27, 2019-January 9, 2020  |
| <b>11:00 AM CUT OFF</b>    | <b>11:59 PM CUT OFF</b>    |                    |                                    |

### NOTE:

Though we will strive to achieve these goals, it may not always be possible due to unforeseen system issues. It is advisable not to leave these submissions to the last day.

Each electronically submitted service encounter must be received, processed and accepted by 11:59 p.m. on the cut-off date to ensure processing for that payment period.

Paper Claims include: Psychiatric Activity Reports, Rural Providers' Emergency on Call Activity Reports, Sessional Payments and Locum Claim Forms. Manual submissions must be received in the Assessment Department by 11:00 a.m. on the cut-off date to ensure processing for that payment period.

**PLEASE NOTE, THE \*\* INDICATES A DATE VARIATION**

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## HOLIDAY DATES

| Please make a note in your schedule of the following dates MSI will accept as "Holidays". |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| NEW YEAR'S DAY  | TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019     |
| HERITAGE DAY  | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019    |
| GOOD FRIDAY   | FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019       |
| EASTER MONDAY   | MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019       |
| VICTORIA DAY  | MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019         |
| CANADA DAY  | MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019         |
| CIVIC HOLIDAY   | MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019       |
| LABOUR DAY  | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019    |
| THANKSGIVING DAY  | MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019     |
| REMEMBRANCE DAY   | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019    |
| CHRISTMAS DAY   | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019 |
| BOXING DAY  | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019  |
| NEW YEAR'S DAY  | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020   |