

5% Preceptor Premium FAQ

Q. What is the 5% Preceptor Premium?

A: The 2023 Physician Agreement included a commitment that “a Physician who is engaged by Dalhousie University to teach undergraduate medical school students or resident physicians, or to oversee a practice ready assessment, will be paid a premium of 5 per cent on all billings for Insured Medical Services provided by the Physician when a student or assessee is present in person with the Physician.”

The 5% Preceptor Premium provides eligible preceptors (“Supervising Physicians”) a 5% premium on insured services provided to patients with a learner (“Medical Trainee”) present.

Q: What is a Supervising Physician for the 5% Preceptor Premium?

A: A Supervising Physician is a physician who is remunerated through the Physician Agreement, licensed through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia for independent practice, who holds an academic appointment with Dalhousie Medical School and who is approved by Dalhousie Medical School to supervise Medical Trainee(s). Physicians who are employees or paid through other arrangements not governed by the Physician Agreement, or who are compensated through a Clinical/Academic Funding Plan (C/AFP), are not eligible for the 5% Preceptor Premium. The Supervising Physician may or may not be the Most Responsible Physician (MRP) for the patient to whom the insured service is being provided.

Q: What counts as a Medical Trainee or eligible practice ready assessee?

A: For the purposes of the 5% Preceptor Premium, a Medical Trainee defined as the following:

- a) Undergraduate medical students registered with Dalhousie Medical School
- b) Residents in an accredited postgraduate specialty or subspecialty training program registered with Dalhousie Medical School
- c) Practice ready assessees participating in the remaining cohorts of the Practice Ready Assessment Program (PRAP)
- d) Other practice ready assessees not part of the Physician Assessment Centre of Excellence (PACE)

A Medical Trainee does not include:

- a) Clinical observers
- b) Clinical fellows
- c) PACE assessees
- d) Physician extenders such as physician assistants or associate physicians, and their learners
- e) Other healthcare providers, and their learners

Q: How is the 5% Preceptor Premium applied?

A: When submitting claims through an approved Electronic Medical Record (EMR), the Supervising Physician must identify that a Medical Trainee was present by selecting the appropriate new compensation variable field in your vendor's software. The premium will be calculated on the insured service claim value and will not be applied to hourly or daily stipend amounts or contract rates, with the exception of District Psychiatry.

Q: Is there a threshold to meet before I can claim this premium, similar to the one that is required for the Annual Teaching Stipend?

A: No, there is no threshold for the 5% Preceptor Premium on insured services provided with a Medical Trainee present.

Q: Which insured services qualify for the 5% Preceptor Premium?

A: All insured services provided to a patient in a clinical practice setting by a Supervising Physician when a Medical Trainee is present in person are eligible to be claimed with the 5% Preceptor Premium.

Q: I am a Longitudinal Family Medicine (LFM) Supervising Physician with multiple business arrangements (BAs). What BA do I claim these insured services through?

A: LFM Supervising Physicians should claim the 5% Preceptor Premium on eligible insured services through their 30% LFM BA using the new compensation variable field. As part of your regular biweekly deposit for your LFM 30% payment, an additional payment for any eligible claims where the 5% Preceptor Premium was selected will be issued. On the detailed statement, the claims that were submitted with appropriate compensation variable field will be marked, and the total amount of the 5% Preceptor Premium paid will be identified at the bottom of that statement. For clarity, LFM Supervising Physicians will receive a total payment of 35% of eligible claims.

Q: What about family physicians in the IWK primary maternity care program – do they qualify for the 5% Preceptor Premium? What about emergency physicians or hospitalists?

A: Yes, all physicians regardless of payment model (except physicians who are employees or paid through other arrangements not governed by the Physician Agreement, or who are compensated through a C/AFP) are eligible for this premium, provided they meet the Supervising Physician eligibility criteria. The premium will be applied to shadow-billed service values, for eligible claims submitted where the 5% Preceptor Premium was selected.

Q: What about physicians assisting with remaining practice ready assessments in the Practice Ready Assessment Program (PRAP) – do they qualify for this premium?

A: Yes, provided they meet the Supervising Physician eligibility criteria; please note that physicians providing assessments as part of the Physician Assessment Centre of Excellence (PACE) are not eligible to claim the 5% Preceptor Premium.

Q: I missed applying for the \$5,000 Annual Teaching Stipend. Can I still claim the 5% Preceptor Premium on eligible insured services?

A: Yes, you can claim the 5% Preceptor Premium on insured services as long as the 5% Preceptor Premium eligibility criteria are met.

Q: For LFM physicians, has anyone considered the impact of precepting on our ability to maintain our 2.8 LFM service encounter ratio?

A: Impacts on LFM service encounters are being monitored. As further data becomes available, all parties are committed to ensuring physicians who precept are not disadvantaged under the LFM model in any way. Further work is being done to assess the impact precepting has on the deliverables required in this payment model.