

## mcp newsletter

January, 2013

13-01

**TO: CATEGORY 'B' EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

**RE: REVISED PAYMENTS FOR CATEGORY 'B' EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT COVERAGE**

The Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the NLMA included a provision for a joint review process to simplify and streamline the payment methodology for Category 'B' Emergency Department (ED) coverage. Approved Category 'B' facilities are listed in Appendix B of the General Preamble to the MCP Medical Payment Schedule. The joint review has been completed and effective January 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. payments to physicians will be made as follows:

**1. Payment for daytime ED coverage, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday – Friday:**

**Fee-for-service Category 'B' Emergency Physicians:**

- Physicians must bill Alternate Billing System (ABS) fee code 611010 *Category B Emergency Coverage with FFS billing* at \$41.18 per hour plus fee-for-service billings as per the MCP Medical Payment Schedule

**Salaried Category 'B' Emergency Physicians:**

- Included in the bi-weekly salary

**Salaried Locum Category 'B' Emergency Physicians:**

- Included in the daily locum rate

**2. Payments for after hours ED coverage, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday to Friday, all-day Saturday, all-day Sunday and RHA designated statutory holidays:**

**Fee-for-service Category 'B' Emergency Physicians:**

- May bill ABS fee code 611020 *Category B Emergency Coverage after hours – no FFS billing* at the all inclusive hourly rate of \$73.00 (no fee-for-service claims are payable) **or** ABS fee code 611010 at the hourly rate of \$41.18 plus fee-for-service billings. The method of billing is at the physician's discretion but must apply for the entire shift or period of ED coverage provided.

**Salaried Category 'B' Emergency Physicians:**

- Must bill ABS fee code 611020 at the all inclusive hourly rate of \$73.00 (no fee-for-service claims are payable).

**Salaried Locum Category 'B' Emergency Physicians:**

- Must bill ABS fee code 611020 at the inclusive hourly rate of \$73.00 (no fee-for-service claims are payable).
- 3. Payments for patients who are not MCP beneficiaries:**
- All physicians may continue to bill for services provided to WHSCC clients, residents of other provinces, territories or countries and other persons who are not MCP beneficiaries as they did in the past.
- 4. Definition:**
- A shift is a period of continuous ED coverage by a physician. For example, when a physician provides weekend coverage from 6:00 p.m. on Friday to 8:00 a.m. on Monday that period is considered a single shift for billing purposes.
  - A shift must be of at least eight hours duration; it cannot be divided into shorter periods for billing purposes.
- 5. Advisory:**
- The Audit and Claims Integrity Division of the Department of Health and Community Services will be monitoring compliance with the foregoing rules, in particular those which place limits on fee-for-service billing and define shift duration.

**Billing Instructions**

Physicians will need to instruct their billing staff to enter information related to the new fee code for *Category B Emergency Coverage after hours – no FFS billing* into their billing software as follows:

1. Open TeleClaim.
2. Select the provider for whom the after hours Category 'B' Emergency Department Coverage will be billed.
3. Click on '**Information**' then on '**Fee Schedule**' and then on '**Add**'.
4. Enter the applicable information in the following fields:
  - **Fee Code** - enter fee code **611020**
  - **ABS Fee** - click on this field, a check mark will appear.
  - **Fee Amount** - enter **73.00**
  - **Fee Description** – enter **Category B Emergency Coverage after hours – no FFS billing**
  - **Date Effective** - enter **2013/01/11**

Next click on '**Save.**'

It will also be necessary to update and save the data for fee code 611010 as follows:

- **Fee Amount** - enter **41.18**
- **Fee Description** – enter **Category B Emergency Coverage with FFS billing**
- **Date Effective** - enter **2013/01/11**

Please note that physicians will not be required to attach patient logs to claims for ABS fee codes 611010 or 611020.

Additional detail regarding billing is included in the Physician Information Manual. The Manual can be viewed on the MCP website.

### **Payment Policy Application**

#### **1. Salary scales for GPs employed at Category 'B' facilities.**

Effective January 11, 2013, salaried physicians employed at a Category 'B' facility will be paid according to the following salary scale:

	<b>Step1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Step 5</b>
<b>Annual Salary</b>	\$125,211	\$131,471	\$137,732	\$143,992	\$150,252

In addition, salaried Category 'B' physicians:

- Will no longer be eligible to receive the quarterly payments that had temporarily been in effect for salaried GPs related to the 2009-13 MOA.
- Will still remain eligible for their annual Retention bonus.
- Will not be eligible for the annual after-hours coverage payment. A final after-hours payment will be prorated up to January 11, 2013 for each physician and will be paid in the near future.

#### **2. Salaried Locums:**

- Itinerant physicians or those that temporarily move from one site of service to a Category 'B' facility to provide short-term locum coverage on a salaried basis will only be eligible for payment at the daily Category 'B' locum rate.
- For the duration of the current MOA (up to September 30, 2013), the daily Category 'B' salaried locum rate will be **\$689.00** for services provided Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- In addition, they will be eligible for the all inclusive after hours Category 'B' hourly payment as outlined above, when these services are provided.

#### **3. Future changes in rates:**

- Further changes to these hourly rates may occur on or after October 1, 2013 and will be determined based on negotiations with the NLMA with respect to a new MOA.

**4. Payments that no longer apply to Category B facilities after January 11, 2013:**

- On-call and Call Backs;
- Internal Locums;
- Additional Workload; and
- After hours coverage payment.

Fee-for-service physicians who have questions related to the content of this Newsletter can contact the Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1501 or the Manager of Medical Affairs and Training at (709) 292-4003. Salaried physicians who have questions related to the content of this Newsletter can contact the Manager of Medical Audit and Compliance at (709) 729-0515. Additional information regarding MCP billing can be obtained by calling the 1-800-440-4405 toll free number.