

mcp newsletter

December 2016

16-13

TO: ALL FEE-FOR-SERVICE PHYSICIANS

**RE: MODIFICATION OF MONTHLY STIPEND FOR METHADONE
MAINTENANCE THERAPY TO INCLUDE SUBOXONE**

The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS), in consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA), has modified fee code 54596, “*Methadone Maintenance Therapy – Monthly stipend for overseeing patients on methadone for opioid dependency*” to include buprenorphine/naloxone (trade name: Suboxone).

Methadone has traditionally been used for treating opioid dependency. Fee code 54596 enables fee-for-service (FFS) physicians overseeing patients with methadone to receive a monthly stipend. Suboxone, a substitution treatment for opioid dependency, was added to the provincial drug formulary under the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) for the treatment of opioid dependency on December 6, 2016. Fee code 54596 has been revised to include Suboxone, allowing physicians overseeing opioid-dependent patients being treated with Suboxone to also receive the stipend.

Documentation requirements for this fee code will be reviewed in collaboration with the NLMA and further information regarding this will be communicated at a later date.

Details of the revisions to fee code 54596 can be found on page E-12 of the Payment Schedule.

Questions relating to the content of this Newsletter should be directed to Angela Batstone, Director of Physician Services, Department of Health and Community Services at (709) 729-7686, or by email at angelabatstone@gov.nl.ca

Revisions to fee code 54596

GENERAL PRACTICE

Opioid Agonist Maintenance Therapy - Monthly stipend for overseeing patients on opioid agonist treatment (OAT).

54596 Per patient, once per month..... 70.00

Notes:

1. OAT means the administration of methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) for opioid dependency.
2. For physicians working in a primary care setting who are managing patients in the induction, stabilization, and/or maintenance phases of OAT.
3. Entitlement to this monthly stipend is limited to physicians who:
 - (a) have a current valid licence to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine / naloxone for addiction; and
 - (b) are actively supervising the patient's continuing use of methadone or buprenorphine / naloxone.
4. Only one physician will be paid the monthly stipend.
5. Visits for each patient contact would be paid as at present.
6. Not eligible for premiums or surcharges.
7. This payment stops when the patient stops taking methadone or buprenorphine / naloxone.