Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Our File #: HCS/049/2018

On April 16, 2018, the Department of Health and Community Services (the Department) received your request for access to the following records:

"Please provide a copy of all documents in the possession of the Department of Health and Community Services that are related to or involve the Department, or someone on the Department's behalf, since 1 January 1997 studying, considering, or otherwise dealing with or addressing the transitioning of "hospital-based" insured services to private medical clinics.

Please provide a copy of all documents in the possession of the Department of Health and Community Services that are related to or involve the Department, or someone on the Department's behalf, since 30 January 1998 studying, considering, or otherwise dealing with or addressing having surgical, diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that are described in paragraph 4(1)(x.1) of the Medical Care Insurance Insured Services Regulations provided as insured services in private medical clinics."

On May 17, 2018, the parameters of HCS/049/2018 were refined to search the records of Blair Fleming, Colleen Crowther and any incumbent in-between, regarding parameters already discussed in the original wording of the request. It was also agreed that the final response would include the analysis referred to in the 2017 MOU with the NLMA regarding the transitioning from hospital-based insured services to private medical clinics.

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Department to provide access to some of the requested information. Access to the remaining information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

Policy Advice or Recommendations
29.(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal
(a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.

Legal Advice
30.(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information
(a) that is subject to solicitor and client privilege or litigation privilege of a public body.
(b) that would disclose legal opinions provided to a public body by a law officer of the Crown.
Disclosure Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations or Negotiations
34.(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to
(a) harm the conduct by the government of the province of relations between that government and the following or their agencies:
(i) the government of Canada or a province,
(b) reveal information received in confidence from a government, council or organization listed in paragraph (a) or their agencies.

Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party
39. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information
(a) that would reveal
(i) trade secrets of a third party, or
(b) that is supplied, implicitly or explicitly, in confidence; and
(c) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to
(i) harm significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the negotiating position of the third party;

Section 40(1): Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy
40.(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

Please be advised that the following pages have been withheld as non-responsive:
Pg. 4-5, Pg. 8-14, Pg. 19-21, Pg. 27-41, Pg. 44-45, Pg. 56-79, Pg. 88-159, Pg. 177-219, Pg. 222-227, Pg. 230-242, Pg. 246-254, Pg. 256-262, Pg. 265-268, Pg. 276, Pg. 279-286, Pg. 288-325, Pg. 328-396, Pg. 398-662.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL. A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.
Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the
response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to
you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information
Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that
requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please contact the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-7010 or by
e-mail at MichaelCook@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Michael Cook
ATIPP Coordinator
/Enclosures
42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52 (1) or 53 (1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21 ;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23 ;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24 ; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26 .

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.
Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner’s refusal under subsection 45 (2).
Blair Fleming Email Correspondence
From: Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca <Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 11:59 AM
To: Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca, Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca,
MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca, Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Cc: Ali.Khan@gov.mb.ca, Allan.Miller@health.gov.sk.ca, Fleming, Blair,
bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca, Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca, Douglas.Birt@gov.mb.ca,
jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca, [redacted]@ihis.org, jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca,
Jude.Coutinho@moh.gov.on.ca, raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca,
Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca, Sally.Darragh@gov.mb.ca, TWEEDAE@gov.ns.ca
Subject: Re: orthopedic surgery coverage

Hi Scott,

Yukon does not cover surgery done in a private clinic.

Stephanie

From: Gorman, Peter HE0 <Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 1:36 PM
To: De Korpomay, Victor (HHLS); 'MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca'; 'Bolesnikov, Dr. Zeljko (DH/MS)'
Cc: Khan, Ali (HHLS); Miller, Allan HE0; 'NFLD-Med. director (blairfleming@gov.nl.ca)'; 'Quebec general inquiries at RAMQ (bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca)'; Hosking, Denis (HHLS); Birt, Douglas (HHLS);
jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; 'David Hambly [redacted]@ihis.org)'; 'jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca';
'JudeCoutinho'; 'ALTA med. dir Ray Howard'; 'Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX'; Darragh, Sally (HHLS);
Stephanie.Starks; 'NS Dr. Anne Tweed (TWEEDAE@gov.ns.ca)
Subject: RE: orthopedic surgery coverage

Scott,

Sask would not pay for surgery done in a private clinic

Dr. Peter Gorman
Medical Consultant
Medical Services Branch
Health
Phone: 306-787-7430
e-mail: peter.gorman@health.gov.sk.ca

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From: De Korpomay, Victor (HHLS) [mailto:Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:19 PM
To: 'MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca'; 'Bolesnikov, Dr. Zeljko (DH/MS)'
Cc: Khan, Ali (HHLS); Miller, Allan HE0; 'NFLD-Med. director (blairfleming@gov.nl.ca)'; 'Quebec general inquiries at RAMQ (bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca)'; Hosking, Denis (HHLS); Birt, Douglas (HHLS); jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca;
'David Hambly [redacted]@ihis.org)'; 'jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca'; 'JudeCoutinho'; Gorman, Peter HE0; 'ALTA med. dir Ray Howard'; 'Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX'; Darragh, Sally (HHLS); 'Yukon Dr. Starks (Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca); 'NS Dr. Anne Tweed (TWEEDAE@gov.ns.ca)
Subject: RE: orthopedic surgery coverage

Hi Scott,

Manitoba does not cover surgical care in private clinics.
From: [email redacted]@medavie.bluecross.ca [mailto:[email redacted]@medavie.bluecross.ca] On Behalf Of
MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca

Sent: February-01-16 9:32 AM

To: Bolesnikov, Dr. Zeljko (DH/MS)
Cc: Khan, Ali (H HLS); (allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca); NFLD-Med. director (blairfleming@gov.nl.ca); Quebec general inquires at RAMQ (bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca); Hosking, Denis (H HLS); Birt, Douglas (H HLS); jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; David Hambly [email redacted]; (jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca); JudeCoutinho; MSI med consultant (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca); Gorman, Peter HE0 (Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca); ALTA med. dir Ray Howard; Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX; Darragh, Sally (H HLS); Yukon Dr. Starks (Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca); NS Dr. Anne Tweed (TWEBEA@gov.ns.ca); De Korompay, Victor (H HLS)

Subject: orthopedic surgery coverage

Dear all,

I have been told by a patient from NS [email redacted] that the clinic informed her that patients from Ontario and BC are covered for surgery in this clinic. This clinic is private and thus not covered by NS DHW. I am writing to enquire about the current handling of orthopedics in your provinces and territories. Does anyone approve out of province or territory surgery other than for very unusual cases? Does anyone cover orthopedic surgical care in private clinics either within their jurisdiction or outside of it?

Regards,
Scott
Hello Jacques,

In Ontario, it is a violation of Part II of the Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act (CFMA) for a physician, or any other person or entity, to charge a person for an insured service or for access to an insured service regardless of the type of facility in which the service is provided. Possible contraventions of this law are investigated and resolved under the process set out in the CFMA, which is available on the ministry’s website at https://www.ontario.ca/laws.

While we have investigated and recovered amounts of CFMA extra-billing violations by physicians, it is difficult to comment on the extent of the issue as not all violations are reported. However, I do not get the impression that this occurs frequently.

Jude

Good afternoon to all,

Thank you,

Jacques Lemire
Médecin spécialiste
Service de l’expertise conseil
Direction des affaires professionnelles
Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec
Tél.: (418) 682-5144 ext 5410
Good afternoon,

Ontario has not approved any surgery at the clinic in question. In general, when Ontario insured subscribers attend a private clinic in another province, they tend to claim their expenses for reimbursement. Ontario would reimburse the physician service if it is insured in Ontario at the lesser of the insured rate and the invoiced rate but does not cover any other costs as these relate to the facility, equipment, supplies and personnel.

Jude

Dear all,

I have been told by a patient from NS, that the clinic informed her that patients from Ontario and BC are covered for surgery in this clinic. This clinic is private and thus not covered by NS DHW. I am writing to enquire about the current handling of orthopedics in your provinces and territories. Does anyone approve out of province or territory surgery other than for very unusual cases? Does anyone cover orthopedic surgical care in private clinics either within their jurisdiction or outside of it?

Regards,

Scott
Hello Jude, In PEI, this is not an insured service. It is done by a private firm and the patient pays for the test. Dave Hambly

>>> "Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)" <Jude.Coutinho@ontario.ca> 01/25/16 2:23 PM >>>

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

From: McMartin, Kristen [mailto:Kristen.McMartin@hqontario.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)
Subject: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

Hi Jude,

Can you please send a request to your interprovincial/territorial colleagues for the following information regarding portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing?

- Are portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing an insured service in your jurisdiction?
- How/where do patients access these devices in your jurisdiction?

Any information is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Kristen

KIRSTEN I. McMARTIN, PH.D.
Clinical Epidemiologist
Evidence Development & Standards
Health Quality Ontario
130 Bloor St. West, 10th Flr.
Toronto, ON M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6368 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html

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From: Tweed, Anne <Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:20 AM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC), alkhani@gov.mb.ca, allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca, Fleming, Blair, bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca, Darragh, Sally, Dave Hambly, Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca, Jacques Lemire, Jim Corkal, Ray Dykstra, raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca, Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca, Stephanie Starks, Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca, Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Cc: McMartin, Kristen, Hutchison, Jeff (MOHLTC)
Subject: RE: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

Hi Jude,

Seeing some of the replies, I should add that we do not insure interpretation of level 4 - pulse oximetry studies only level 1, 2, 3

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)
Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

From: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC) [Jude.Coutinho@ontario.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 2:22 PM
To: alkhani@gov.mb.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Tweed, Anne; Blair Fleming; bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; Darragh, Sally; Dave Hambly; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Jacques Lemire; Jim Corkal; Ray Dykstra; raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca; Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca; Stephanie Starks; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca; Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Cc: McMartin, Kristen; Hutchison, Jeff (MOHLTC)
Subject: FW: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

From: McMartin, Kristen [mailto:Kristen.McMartin@hqontario.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)
Subject: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

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How/where do patients access these devices in your jurisdiction?

Any information is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Kristen

KRISTEN I. MCMARTIN, PH.D.
Clinical Epidemiologist
Evidence Development & Standards
Health Quality Ontario
130 Bloor St. West, 10th Flr.
Toronto, ON  M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6868 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html
Hi Jude,
Overnight pulse oximetry studies done at home are not insured services in Yukon, except for seniors under the Pharmacare program. The machine is rented from a private business called Northern Respiratory in Whitehorse with the cost reimbursed under Pharmacare to a maximum of $45.00.

If screening pulse oximetry studies suggest a sleep disorder, Yukon patients can be referred to sleep clinics in Alberta or BC for overnight sleep studies. Costs are covered under the reciprocal agreement at any publicly funded facility, as well as at some private sleep clinics that have the capacity to bill reciprocally such as the Kelowna Sleep Clinic. Medical travel is not covered if the study is done at a private facility.

Stephanie
This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it immediately and notify us by telephone. Thank you.

From: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC) [mailto:Jude.Coutinho@ontario.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:22 AM
To: alkhan@gov.mb.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Anne.Tweed@gov.ns.ca; Blair Fleming; bruno.rainville@gouv.qc.ca; Darragh, Sally; Dave Hambly; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Jacques Lemire; Jim Corkal; Ray Dykstra; raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca; Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca; Stephanie Starks; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca; Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Cc: McMartin, Kristen; Hutchison, Jeff (MOHLTC)
Subject: FW: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

From: McMartin, Kristen [mailto:Kristen.McMartin@hqontario.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)
Subject: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

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- Are portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing an insured service in your jurisdiction?
- How/where do patients access these devices in your jurisdiction?

Any information is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Kristen

KRISTEN I. McMARTIN, PH.D.
Clinical Epidemiologist
Evidence Development & Standards
Health Quality Ontario
130 Bloor St. West, 10th Flr.
Toronto, ON M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6968 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
Hi Jude,

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Jacques Lemire  
Médecin spécialiste  
Service de l'expertise conseil  
Direction des affaires professionnelles  
Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec  
Tél.: (418) 662-5144 ext 5410

De : Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC) [mailto:Jude.Coutinho@ontario.ca]
Envoyé : 25 janvier 2016 13:22
À : alkhan@gov.mb.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Anne.Tweed@gov.ns.ca; Blair Fleming; Rainville Bruno; Darragh, Sally; Dave Hambly; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Lemire Jacques; Jim Corkal; Ray Dykstra; raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca; Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca; Stephanie Starks; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca; Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Cc : McMartin, Kristen; Hutchison, Jeff (MOHLTC)
Objet : FW: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

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Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

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From: McMartin, Kristen [mailto:Kristen.McMartin@hqontario.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)
Subject: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

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Any information is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
KRISTEN I. MCMARTIN, PH.D.
Clinical Epidemiologist
Evidence Development & Standards
Health Quality Ontario
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Toronto, ON M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6868 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mae/mae.html
In Alberta, all sleep medicine labs have to be accredited through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. The CPSA lists only five facilities and these are all independent. Home sleep tests are not an insured service. Patients may contact Alberta Aids to Daily Living for information regarding funding. There is nothing listed in the Alberta Schedule of Medical Benefits.

Ray H

Raymond R S Howard
MB, ChB, FRCS, FRCSE
Medical Consultant
Alberta Health
Professional Services and Health Benefits Division
Health Insurance Programs Branch

780 415 1551

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

Hi Jude,

Can you please send a request to your interprovincial/territorial colleagues for the following information regarding portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing?

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Tel: 416-323-6868 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html

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British Columbia's response is: s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Dr. Rinze (Ray) Dykstra, M.D; FRCSC  
Medical Advisor  
Ministry of Health  
(250) 952 3352  
Fax (250) 952 1417

Colleagues,

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Toronto, ON  M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6868 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html
Hi, Jude.

Portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing are not specifically an insured service in NB.
From: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC) [mailto:Jude.Coutinho@ontario.ca]
Sent: January-25-16 2:22 PM
To: alkhan@gov.mb.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Anne.Tweed@gov.ns.ca; Blair Fleming;
bruno.rainville@ ramq.gouv.qc.ca; Darragh, Sally; Dave Hambly; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Jacques Lemire; Jim Corkal;
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Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html
Hi Jude,

Last week we had a media request for the same information, I think the reporter was contacting all provinces.

We only insure the "test" i.e. provide the training and portable device if it is requested through a hospital based sleep lab. In this situation the staff are paid by the NSHA and there is no cost to the patient.

If the test is provided by a corner store snore shop or similar, it may be patient pay depending on the business model involved. Some of these enterprises are run/owned by OTOL surgeons and I suspect we are paying for the interpretation of the tests in this situation.

We pay for interpretation of sleep studies by certain specialties only - PSYC, NEUR, OTOL, RESP

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Streeet
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

From: McMartin, Kristen [mailto:Kristen.McMartin@hqvntario.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)
Subject: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing
Hi Jude,

Can you please send a request to your interprovincial/territorial colleagues for the following information regarding portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing?

- Are portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing an insured service in your jurisdiction?
- How/where do patients access these devices in your jurisdiction?

Any information is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Kristen

KRISTEN I. MCMARTIN, PH.D.
Clinical Epidemiologist
Evidence Development & Standards
Health Quality Ontario
130 Bloor St. West, 10th Flr.
Toronto, ON M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6868 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html
Hi Jude,

Last week we had a media request for the same information, I think the reporter was contacting all provinces.

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If the test is provided by a corner store snore shop or similar, it may be patient pay depending on the business model involved. Some of these enterprises are run/owned by OTOL surgeons and I suspect we are paying for the interpretation of the tests in this situation.

We pay for interpretation of sleep studies by certain specialties only - PSYC, NEUR, OTOL, RESP

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

From: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC) [Jude.Coutinho@ontario.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 2:22 PM
To: alkhan@gov.mb.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Tweed, Anne; Blair Fleming; bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; Darragh, Sally; Dave Hambly; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Jacques Lemire; Jim Corkal; Ray Dykstra; raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca; Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca; Stephanie Starks; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca; Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Cc: McMartin, Kristen; Hutchison, Jeff (MOHLTC)
Subject: FW: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing

Colleagues,

Your assistance with the query below is appreciated.

Jude

From: McMartin, Kristen [mailto:Kristen.McMartin@hqontario.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC)
Subject: portable home sleep tests for diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing
Hi Jude,

Can you please send a request to your interprovincial/territorial colleagues for the following information regarding portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing?

- Are portable, home sleep tests for the diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing an insured service in your jurisdiction?
- How/where do patients access these devices in your jurisdiction?

Any information is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Kristen

KIRSTEN I. MCMARTIN, PH.D.
Clinical Epidemiologist
Evidence Development & Standards
Health Quality Ontario
130 Bloor St. West, 10th Flr:
Toronto, ON M5S 1N5
Tel: 416-323-6868 x328
Fax: 416-323-9261
kristen.mcmartin@hqontario.ca
www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas.html
Not to be out done by New Brunswick, here is ours

Dr. Rinze (Ray) Dykstra, M.D; FRCSC
Medical Advisor
Ministry of Health
(250) 952 3352
Fax (250) 952 1417

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.
From: Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX <Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 7:49 PM
To: Fleming, Blair, bruno rainville, Corkal, Dr. Jim, Coutinho, Dr. Jude - Ontario, Dave Hambly, Denis Hosking, douglas brt, Howard, Dr. Raymond - Alberta, Khan, Dr. Ali - Manitoba, Lemire Jacques (Jacques.Lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca), Miller, Dr. Allan - Sask, peter gorman, Sally Darragh, Stephanie Starks (stephanie.starks@gov.yk.ca), Tweed, Dr. Anne - Nova Scotia, victor De Korompay, Zeljko Bolesnikov (Zeljko.bolesnikov@gnb.ca)
Subject: British Columbia's updated fee schedule
Attachments: s.34(1)(a)(i)

Not to be out done by New Brunswick, here is ours

Dr. Rinze (Ray) Dykstra, M.D, FRCSC
Medical Advisor
Ministry of Health
(250) 952 3352
Fax (250) 952 1417

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

s.34(1)(a)(i)

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.
Dear Honorable Steve Kent,

I have attached an email history for your review. Dr. Coffey is attempting to implement phototherapy in his own private office. Before he proceeded to purchase these units, he wanted to ensure no 'authorization' was required. In the past Dr. Coffey has had difficulty with providing laser service in his clinic. This resulted in a court battle which was settled in his favour. I'm sure you are aware of the precedent which I am referring to. Phototherapy is non-invasive, non-diagnostic, nor does it involve Public Health Laboratory Regulations. Dr. Coffey is well aware that Phototherapy is not covered by MCP for all physicians. He will charge patients out of pocket for this service (as detailed in the email below to [Redacted] of MCP). In 2009 the Honourable Ross Wiseman sent a letter stating that Dr. Coffey could charge out of pocket for laser services for his patients in his private office. This was covered by some of the dermatologists, but not by all, despite this service in the MCP preamble and billable under Dermatology. Phototherapy is currently offered and covered/insured in all provinces for private office provision, except Newfoundland.

Traditionally this service is provided by an RN or physiotherapist in small clinics on hospital property in most of the province, except St. John's. Red light therapy (a form of phototherapy) is provided in Spas and non-dermatology trained offices on the Avalon Peninsula. As well, patients can contact phototherapy distributors privately, purchase and use HOME phototherapy units for psoriasis, eczema, vitiligo, and other medical conditions.

I would hope that our office will not be prevented from providing such an valuable service to our patient population.

If you require any further information please feel free to contact myself or Dr. Coffey directly [Redacted] - direct line).

I trust that your office will get back to us in a timely manner.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,
Hi Carolyn & Dr. Fleming,
Thank you so much for your response. Can you please forward the contact information for the Health Care Minister, The Deputy Health Care Minister, and any other persons relevant to the authorization of this service in a private medical office.

Thank you for your time.

Hi [name]

Please see Dr. Fleming’s response below.

Thanks,
Carolyn

Manager of Claims Assessing (Acting)
Health & Community Services - MCP
P.O. Box 5000
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2Y4
Telephone: 709-292-4004
Email: CarolynBraye@gov.nl.ca
Fax: 709-292-4053
They should contact the Minister about this. They may need his permission under the Diagnostic and Public Health Laboratories Regulations.

Dr. Blair Fleming MD
Assistant Director, Physician Services (Acting)
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland Labrador
P.O. Box 8700,
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709 758 1501 Fax: 709 729 5238

From: Braye, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Fleming, Blair
Subject: FW: Phototherapy in Private Office

Hi Dr. Fleming,

Please see below email from Dr. Coffey. Please advise.

Thanks,
Carolyn

Manager of Claims Assessing (Acting)
Health & Community Services - MCP
P.O. Box 5000
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2Y4
Telephone: 709-292-4004
Email: CarolynBraye@gov.nl.ca
Fax: 709-292-4053

From: Joseph Coffey [mailto:______@hotmail.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 11:16 PM
To: Braye, Carolyn
Cc: ______@hotmail.com
Subject: Phototherapy in Private Office

Hello Ms. Braye,

I’m writing on behalf of Dr. Joseph Coffey (Dermatologist). He is interested in providing phototherapy to his patients in his private office in St. John’s. The provision of this service would be an out of pocket expense for the patients.

As it stands, phototherapy has recently been negotiated through the NLMA to be a billable procedure in a hospital setting only. Dr. Gillian Clarke and Dr. Wayne Gulliver are the only physicians who avail of this service as they are physically at the dermatology unit on Major’s path. Patients from all dermatologists are referred to the Dermatology Unit, and patients are triaged based on urgency for timely management.

Due to the high volume of physicians referring patients, and the high volume of psoriasis diagnosis in our patient population, the Dermatology unit gives each dermatologist 1 new consult to be seen and treated weekly, whether or not the physician sees mostly follow-up patients, or mostly new cases who are more likely to require initiation of phototherapy services. This has resulted in a waitlist of 3-4
months for access to care, and has led to patients going on oral medications for psoriasis with higher risk of side effects, blood monitoring, and more cost to the health care system. \( s. \text{29(1)(a)} \)

Dr. Coffey is equally certified as a Royal College Dermatologist in Canada, with equal training to his colleagues, and part of that residency training is based on phototherapy provision, and understanding the minute details of treatment, side effects, and management of side effects. \( s. \text{29(1)(a)} \)

In the past number of years laser services were deemed insured services for several dermatologists for several medical conditions in a private office, and Dr. Coffey was denied access to this insured service in his private office. The Health Care minister in 2009, Ross Wiseman, stated that although he was unable to bill MCP for this service, that nothing was preventing him from billing the patients directly.

Please provide your thoughts on this situation, and respond in a timely manner. Dr. Coffey is hoping to order these machines within the next 2 weeks, so that he may start provision of phototherapy by January 2016.

Sincerely, \( s. \text{40(1)} \)

on behalf of Dr. Joseph Coffey
"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."

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Hi Carolyn & Dr. Fleming,
Thank you so much for your response. Can you please forward the contact information for the Health Care Minister, The Deputy Health Care Minister, and any other persons relevant to the authorization of this service in a private medical office.
Thank you for your time.

From: Braye, Carolyn <carolynbraye@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 11:51 AM
To: Joseph Coffey <joseph.coffey@hotmail.ca>
Subject: Re: Phototherapy in Private Office

Hi,

Please see Dr. Fleming’s response below.

Thanks,
Carolyn

Manager of Claims Assessing (Acting)
Health & Community Services - MCP
P.O. Box 5000
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2Y4
Telephone: 709-292-4004
Email: CarolynBraye@gov.nl.ca
Fax: 709-292-4053

From: Fleming, Blair
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 10:19 AM
To: Braye, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Phototherapy in Private Office

They should contact the Minister about this. They may need his permission under the Diagnostic and Public Health Laboratories Regulations.

Dr. Blair Fleming MD
Assistant Director, Physician Services (Acting)
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland Labrador
P.O. Box 8700,
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709 758 1501 Fax: 709 729 5238

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Hi Dr. Fleming,

Please see below email from Dr. Coffey. Please advise.

Thanks,
Carolyn

Manager of Claims Assessing (Acting)
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P.O. Box 5000
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2Y4
Telephone: 709-292-4004
Email: CarolynBraye@gov.nl.ca
Fax: 709-292-4053

From: Joseph Coffey [mailto:*
 Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 11:16 PM
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 Cc:*
 Subject: Phototherapy in Private Office

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Sincerely,

on behalf of Dr. Joseph Coffey

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The NWT answers are identical to Manitoba’s answers on this one.

Jim Corkal
BA, MD, FRCSC, MBA; CCPE
Chief Clinical Advisor

PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER AND MAILING ADDRESS

Division: Directorate
Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories
5015 – 49th Street
Box 1320 | Yellowknife, NT | X1A 2L9
Tel: 1-867-767-9050 (Ext. 49003) | Fax: 1-867-873-0266
E-mail: jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca
www.hss.gov.nt.ca

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Hi Anne,
Please see the Manitoba answers below. Denis

Denis Hosking
Medical Consultant,
Manitoba Health
Phone: (204)786-7215
e-mail: Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca

---

From: Tweed, Anne [mailto:Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca]
Sent: July-13-15 7:44 AM
To: Boleshnikov, Zefiko; Coutinho, Jude; Darragh, Sally (HHLS); Howard, Raymond; Khan, Ali (HHLS); La Regie; Tweed, Anne; Fleming, Blair; bruno.rainville@ram.qov.gq.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Hosking, Denis (HHLS); Birt, Douglas (HHLS); jacques.lemire@ram.qov.gq.ca; [redacted]@his.org; Dr. Jim Corkal [jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca]; Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca; Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca; Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca; De Korompay, Victor (HHLS)
Cc: MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca

Subject: Sialendoscopy

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T? NO
Do you have a code and what is it’s value? N/A
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease? Not at present given how few practitioners use it, but that may well change in the future.
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital? NO

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants’ email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)
Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119
Thanks Blair

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCs(C)
Medical Consultant
Partnerships & Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8
Phone: 902 424 5119
Fax: 902 424 1740

From: Fleming, Blair [mailto:BlairFleming@gov.nl.ca]
Sent: July-14-15 10:38 AM
To: Tweed, Anne; Bolesnikov, Zeljko; Coutinho, Jude; Darragh, Sally; Howard, Raymond; Khan, Ali; La Regie; bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Douglas.Birt@gov.mb.ca; jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; @ihis.org; Dr. Jim Corkal [jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca]; Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca; Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca; Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca
Cc: MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca
Subject: RE: Sialendoscopy

Hi Anne,

Please see NL answers below.

Dr. Blair Fleming MD
Assistant Director, Physician Services (Acting)
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland Labrador
P.O. Box 8700,
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709 758 1501 Fax: 709 729 5238

From: Tweed, Anne [mailto:Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Bolesnikov, Zeljko; Coutinho, Jude; Darragh, Sally; Howard, Raymond; Khan, Ali; La Regie; Tweed, Anne; Fleming, Blair; bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Douglas.Birt@gov.mb.ca; jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; @ihis.org; Dr. Jim Corkal [jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca]; Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca; Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca; Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca
Cc: MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca
Subject: Sialendoscopy

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T? NL: Not to the best of my knowledge.
Do you have a code and what is it's value? NL: We do not have a fee code and we have not had a request to introduce one.
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease? NL: I think it may be a promising technique but I don’t believe it has been widely adopted by the profession. I was interested in the article you can read by using the following link: http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/apexchange/2013/04/04/in--exchange-salivary-gland-treatment.html
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital? NL: No.

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants’ email address to your mailing list ( MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca ) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)
Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

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Hi Anne:

Saskatchewan’s answers are embedded below.

Dr. Allan Miller
Medical Consultant
Medical Services Branch
Health
Phone: 306-798-1177
e-mail: allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T? [Redacted]

Do you have a code and what is it’s value? N/A

Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease? [Redacted]

Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital? [Redacted]

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants’ email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street

P.O. Box, 488

Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3J 2R8

902-424-5119
Good afternoon Anne,

Sincerely,

Jacques Lemire
Médecin spécialiste
Service de l'expertise conseil
Direction des affaires professionnelles
Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
Tél.: (418) 682-5144 ext 5410

De : Tweed, Anne [mailto:Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca]
Envoyé : 13 juillet 2015 08:44
À : Bolesnikov, Zeljko; Coutinho, Jude; Darragh, Sally; Howard, Raymond; Khan, Ali; Expertise Damdo; Tweed, Anne; Fleming, Blair; Rainville Bruno; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Douglas.Birt@gov.mb.ca; Lemire Jacques: [redacted]@ihts.org; Dr. Jim Corkal [jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca]; Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca; Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca; Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca
Cc : MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca
Objet : Sialendoscopy

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T?
Do you have a code and what is it's value?
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease?
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital?
Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants’ email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks
Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street

P.O. Box, 488

Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3J 2R8

902-424-5119
No, this is not on the Alberta SOMB. Hence it is not an insured service and we would not cover it. There have been no requests for a new code. I would not consider it standard of care.

Ray H

Raymond R S Howard
MB, ChB, FRCS, FRCSCE
Medical Consultant
Alberta Health
Professional Services and Health Benefits Division
Health Insurance Programs Branch

780 415 1551

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T?
Do you have a code and what is it's value?
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease?
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital?

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS' MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants' email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)
Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street

P.O. Box, 488

Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

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No, this is not on the Alberta SOMB. Hence it is not an insured service and we would not cover it. There have been no requests for a new code. I would not consider it standard of care.

Ray H

Raymond R S Howard
MB, ChB, FRCS, FRCSCE
Medical Consultant
Alberta Health
Professional Services and Health Benefits Division
Health Insurance Programs Branch

780 415 1551

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T?
Do you have a code and what is it's value?
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease?
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital?

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Anne

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Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street

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Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

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Hello Anne,

Sialendoscopy is not listed in the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services under the Health Insurance Act (HIA) and, therefore, it is not insured and no amount is payable by OHIP for the service.

Jude

From: Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca
Sent: July 13, 2015 8:44 AM
To: Bolesnikov, Zeljko; Coutinho, Jude (MOHLTC); Darragh, Sally; Howard, Raymond; Khan, Ali; La Regie; Tweed, Anne; Fleming, Blair; bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; victor.dekorompay@pg.gov.ca
Cc: MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca
Subject: Sialendoscopy

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T?
Do you have a code and what is it’s value?
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease?
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital?

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants’ email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness

1894 Barrington Street

P.O. Box, 488

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Hi, Anne.
Please see below.

Zeljko Bolesnikov, M.D.
Medical Consultant – Medicare
NB Department of Health
Phone: (506) 453-4294
Fax: (506) 457-7671
E-mail: zeljko.bolesnikov@gnb.ca

From: Tweed, Anne [mailto:Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca]
Sent: July-13-15 9:44 AM
To: Bolesnikov, Dr. Zeljko (DH/MS); Coutinho, Jude; Darragh, Sally; Howard, Raymond; Khan, Ali; La Regie, Fleming; Blair; bruno.rainville@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; Douglas.Birt@gov.mb.ca; jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; [redacted]@ihs.org; Dr. Jim Corkal jim_corkal@gov.nl.ca; Peter.Gorman@health.gov.sk.ca; Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca; Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca; Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca
Cc: MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca
Subject: Sialendoscopy

Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T? No.

Do you have a code and what is it's value? No.
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease? I don't see why not.
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital? No, but we had a patient go to a doctor in Montreal who performed this on a very difficult case. The name and contact info escapes me now.

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants' email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119
Good Morning Colleagues,

Is sialendoscopy available in your P/T?
Do you have a code and what is it’s value?
Do you consider it standard of care for obstructive salivary gland disease?
Have you ever covered services in Ontario by Dr. Kolenda - he has a private clinic but also has privileges at a public hospital?

Thank you for your assistance.

As you know Medavie Blue Cross administers NS’ MSI Program. Please would you add their medical consultants’ email address to your mailing list (MSI_MedicalConsultant@medavie.bluecross.ca) and cc them on this and all future correspondence.

Thanks

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)
Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119
From: Wall, Marlene  
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 3:57 PM 
To: Fleming, Blair  
Subject: RE: question Newfoundland

Hi,

Your e-mail has been forwarded to Dr. Blair Fleming, Medical Care Plan, for reply.

Thanks,

Marlene Wall  
Manager of Insured Programs  
729-3108

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 2:51 PM  
To: Wall, Marlene  
Subject: FW: question Newfoundland

Hello Marlene,

I am trying to find out the answer to the question below.

Thank you for your help.

AmerisourceBergen, Innomar-Strategies  
Nursing and Business Operations  
3470 Superior Court  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6L 0C4  
Work 905-847-4310  
[REDACTED]  
Creating Change, Moving Faster, Thinking Deeper  
www.amerisourcebergen.ca

From: HealthInfo. [mailto:healthinfo@gov.nl.ca]  
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:15 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: question Newfoundland

Good afternoon and thank you for your email,

It is suggested you contact the Division of Insured Services, Manager, Marlene Wall. Ms. Wall can be reached at (709) 729-3108 or email mwall@gov.nl.ca and can advise if those tests are an insured service.

Health Info.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: March 26, 2015 2:11 PM
To: HealthInfo,  
Subject: question Newfoundland

Hello,

I am trying to find out if the following tests are covered by your provincial health plan, if performed in a private clinic. If they are not covered, how much do they cost?

CBC  
CRP  
Albumin  
Liver Function Test  
Fecal Calprotectin  
Trough Level

Thank you,

AmerisourceBergen, Innomar-Strategies  
Nursing and Business Operations  
3470 Superior Court  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6L 0C4  
Work 905-847-4310 @innomar-strategies.com

Creating Change, Moving Faster, Thinking Deeper  
www.amerisourcebergen.ca

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From: Tweed, Anne <Anne.Tweed@novascotia.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Bolesnikov, Dr. Zeljko (DH/MS), (allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca), (Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca), (jcounsell@health.gov.sk.ca), (jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca), (Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca), ALTA med. dir Ray Howard, David Hambly Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX, jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca, JudeCoutinho, Manitoba inquiries -Sally Darragh (Sally.Darragh@gov.mb.ca), MB med. dir. Dr. Ali Khan (ali.khan@gov.mb.ca), Fleming, Blair, Quebec general inquiries at RAMQ (bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca), Yukon Dr. Starks (Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca)

Subject: RE: Infertility treatment and ultrasound

Hi Zeljko

See my answers below

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)
Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8
902-424-5119

From: Bolesnikov, Dr. Zeljko (DH/MS) [Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 4:01 PM
To: (allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca); (Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca); (jcounsell@health.gov.sk.ca); (jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca); (Victor.DeKorompay@gov.mb.ca); ALTA med. dir Ray Howard; David Hambly Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX; jacques.lemire@ramq.gouv.qc.ca; JudeCoutinho; Manitoba inquiries -Sally Darragh (Sally.Darragh@gov.mb.ca); MB med. dir. Dr. Ali Khan (ali.khan@gov.mb.ca); NFLD-Med. director (blairlfleming@gov.nl.ca); Tweed, Anne; Quebec general inquiries at RAMQ (bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca); Yukon Dr. Starks (Stephanie.Starks@gov.yk.ca)
Subject: Infertility treatment and ultrasound

Hi, everyone. The DM asked me to get for the following information from you:

Infertility treatment:
1. How do you pay for a consultation when both partners are seen by the obs/gyn for infertility at the same session?
   Do you have a code specific for a “couples consultation”, or do you pay two individual consultations (one per partner) at the same session? WE DO NOT HAVE A COUPLES CONSULT FEE, I AM NOT AWARE OF OBGY BILING A CONSULT ON A MALE BUT THE
COMPUTER MAY NOT SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE THIS. OUR MALE INFERTILITY SPECIALIST IS A UROLOGIST.

2. Would you pay a consultation for a same-sex couple (either sex)? Do you have any guidelines, legislation or other that guides you? WE DO NOT HAVE ANY RULES OR GUIDELINES ABOUT THIS BUT BILLING FOR 2 PATIENTS CONCURRENTLY IS NOT PERMITTED.

Ultrasound:

3. Do you pay for an ultrasound to be performed in an office setting? NO Which specialties is it open to, any restrictions, fees etc.? ONLY RADIOLOGISTS AND ONLY SERVICES PERFORMED WITHIN THE HOSPITAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE OBGY WITH SONOGRAPHY TRAINING (STILL HAS TO BE HOSPITAL BASED). THE OTHER EXCEPTION IS VASCULAR LAB AT CDHA IN HALIFAX AND DOPPLER STUDIES.

4. Do you consider an office ultrasound to be included in the visit fee, or do you pay it extra and how much? WE SPECIFICALLY DO NOT PAY FOR RADIOLOGY SERVICES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL AND ONLY PAY FOR SERVICES THAT HAVE A FORMAL REQUEST, A STORED IMAGE AND FORMAL REPORT BACK TO THE REFERRING PHYSICIAN. OFFICE ULTRASOUND DOES NOT MEET THESE CRITERIA.

Thanks

Zeljko

Zeljko Bolesnikov, M.D.
Medical Consultant – Medicare
NB Department of Health
Phone: (506) 453-4294
Fax: (506) 457-7671
E-mail: zeljko.bolesnikov@gnb.ca
Hi everyone and thank you so much for your prompt response. I am sharing everyone’s response for your information.

Thanks again from NB:

Carole Sharpe
Director, Medicare Eligibility and Claims
506-457-6849
506-457-40(1)

The Department of Health is committed to safeguarding your privacy. For more information on our privacy practices and about your rights regarding this issue, go to www.gnb.ca (key word – Privacy Notice).

Le ministère de la Santé est résolu à protéger votre vie privée. Pour plus de renseignements en ce qui a trait à nos pratiques en matière de protection de renseignements personnels, ainsi que de vos droits à ce sujet, consultez le www.gnb.ca (mot clé - Avis sur la protection de la vie privée).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Does your jurisdiction cover services provided in private clinics?</th>
<th>Are there any exceptions?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NB</td>
<td>NB does not cover services provided in private clinics.</td>
<td>If lab services are provided in private labs out of Province, NB will pay the out of province hospital that requested the service, but will not pay the lab directly. We have via the Mental health and Addiction services provided approved services OOP for services which we cannot provide in the Province. This are by prior approval only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS</td>
<td>This is a little complicated, however our general answer would be no,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From: Sharpe, Carole (DH/MS) [mailto:Carole.Sharpe@gnb.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 1:25 PM
To: Carolyn Kavanagh; Eileen Larkin (ealarkin@gov.pe.ca); Adrienne Hagen Lyster (Adrienne.HagenLyster@health.gov.sk.ca); Clarke, George (MOHLTC); Nelson Candeias; NS Harold McCarthy; NU Annamarie Hedley; NU jarklay@gov.nu.ca; BC Patrick Anglin ; Lysane Montminy (Lysane.montminy@ramq.gouv.qc.ca); NT Wayne Overbo; MB Deb Slobogian-Jones ; ON Julie Ingo; QC Bus.Hugues Boulanger; YT Bus. Pam Buckway; Thompson, Rosie (MOHLTC); Donna Manuel; Taylor, Mark C HLTH:EX; Wall, Mariene

Subject: NB request for information - rush please
we do not cover services that are provided for in private clinics. Having said that, NS started to cover sex reassignment surgeries this year and these are only available at a private facility in Quebec. Also, in regards to your example of lab services, no we would not reimburse anyone who has gone on their own to a private lab for tests. They would have to be billed through the hospital somehow to be considered. If however, we received a referral for a lab service out of province that is not available in NS and only available at a private facility, I would think we would probably agree to cover? Again, it would depend on what the service was and the condition for the test. How would NB deal with this final example???

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NU</td>
<td>Our legislation states no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>Yes – for urgent care if the wait time is too long at a public facility such as MRI clinic, or abortion clinic. All require a prior approval for payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWT</td>
<td>NWT does not cover services provided in private clinics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requests for a patient to be seen at a private facility opposed to a public facility is subject to approval.

All exceptional prior approval request forms must be accompanied by the
| AB       | Alberta Health (AH) will cover physician referrals to private clinics, however, will not cover physician services for the procedure done in the private clinic. For procedures provided to Albertans in out-of-province private clinics, AH covers the cost of insured physician services at the lesser of the amount claimed, and the rates of the host province. Facility fees at the private clinic and any excess cost for the physician services are the responsibility of the Albertan. | Some private clinics are under contract to Alberta Health Services (AHS) for performing some insured services. If this is the case, then AH would pay for the physician services and AHS would be responsible for the payment of the facility fees as per the contract between AHS and the private clinic. |
| Sask     | Only if those services were not available in the publicly-funded health care system. |
Dear colleagues,

Sorry to have to ask a question so close to our scheduled meeting but IVF has surfaced as an issue here this week and I've been asked to get up to date information.

1) Is IVF covered as an insured service in your province/territory?
2) If yes, what are the terms and condition for coverage?
3) If yes, is the service provided and covered in private facilities?

Dr. Blair Fleming MD
Assistant Director, Physician Services (Acting)
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland Labrador
P.O. Box 8700,
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709 758 1501 Fax: 709 729 5238

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Thank you Blair, no need for precise year, fiscal year for 13-14 is perfect.

I appreciate the info.

Blair

Blair Medd
Communications Manager
Department of Health and Community Services
Main Floor, West Block
Confederation Building

Tel: 709-729-1399
Email: blairmedd@gov.nl.ca

Hi Blair,

Please see answers below.

Dr. Blair Fleming MD
Assistant Director, Physician Services (Acting)
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland Labrador
P.O. Box 8700,
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709 758 1501 Fax: 709 729 5238

Dr. Fleming,

We have an inquiry about abortions performed in hospitals, I’m not sure how much of this you can answer, but I will start with you first.

- what are the rules for getting an abortion (ie. Do you need a physician to recommend?) We essentially have abortion on demand. All a woman needs is to have a physician agree to perform the procedure.
- are abortions covered by MCP (ie for Athena and Health Sciences Centre) Yes to both sites.
- Are there different rules for getting an abortion at the Health Sciences Centre vs Athena? According to the Medical Care Insurance Insured Services Regulations a private clinic needs to be approved by the CPSNL in order to be eligible for MCP payments to the physicians performing abortions there. The patient would likely not be aware of this. There are no other differences from an MCP perspective. There may be other internal policy differences but we have not been advised about them.
• how many abortions were performed in NL in 2013 (is it possible to break the number down between how many were performed at Athena and the Health Sciences Centre)? It is, but I will have to make a request to the OCIO if you want a precise number for the calendar year; please let me know if you do. In FY 2013-14 based on date of payment approximately 844 were performed at Athena and approximately 189 were performed at the HSC for a total of 1033 at the two sites.
• Do people have to pay out-of-pocket for abortions? Not if the abortion is performed at Athena or the HSC. In what circumstances?
• How much was the fee-for-service physician costs for 2013 to cover abortion services? I will have to make a request to the OCIO if you want a precise number for the calendar year; please let me know if you do. In FY 2013-14 based on date of payment we paid $176,636.34 to physicians who performed therapeutic abortions.

I have information from last year that you provided that states there were 995 therapeutic abortions performed at the Athena Health Centre and Health Sciences Centre in 2012 and the fee-for-service physician costs in 2011-12 was approx. $118,000.

Thanks,

Blair

Blair Medd
Communications Manager
Department of Health and Community Services
Main Floor, West Block
Confederation Building

Tel: 709-729-1399
Email: blairmedd@gov.nl.ca
We would pay for it in a private clinic (out of province) if:
1. medically necessary
2. supporting clinical documentation provided that alternate means of treatment had been discussed
3. non cosmetic
4. Evidence of benefit - CADTH report (http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/L0102_Endovenous_Laser_Therapy.pdf)
5. the service was not available in the public system
6. the service was available in the public system but the wait time was not acceptable.

So if there was supporting clinical documentation we would pay for it and the wait was deemed too long in the public system we would pay for it.

Jim Corkal
BA, MD, FRCSC, MBA, CCPE
Chief Clinical Advisor

Division: Directorate
Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320 | Yellowknife, NT | X1A 2L9
Tel: 1-867-873-7831 | Fax: 1-867-873-0266
E-mail: jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca
www.hss.gov.nt.ca

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-----Original Message-----
From: Tweed, Anne [mailto:Anne.Tweed@gov.ns.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 11:47 AM
To: Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX; 'Dave Hambly'; 'ali.khan@gov.mb.ca'
Cc: 'Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca'; 'raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca'; 'Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca';
'blairfleming@gov.nl.ca'; Jim Corkal; 'Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca'; 'allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca';
'jcoucill@health.gov.sk.ca'; 'Jude.Coutinho@moh.gov.on.ca'
Subject: RE: EVLT Coverage

Hi Ray,
We have no code for EVLT, but have reviewed it and would consider it an insured service provided it is not done for cosmetic and would provide a code if only the physicians were willing to do it in a publicly funded facility at MSI rates.

Anne
Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services

NS Dept of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box, 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

902-424-5119

From: Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX [Ray.Dykstra@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Tweed, Anne; 'Dave Hambly'; 'ali.khan@gov.mb.ca'
Cc: 'Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca'; 'raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca'; 'Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca'; 'blairfleming@gov.nl.ca'; 'jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca'; 'Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca'; 'allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca'; 'jcoucill@health.gov.sk.ca'; 'Jude.Coutinho@moh.gov.on.ca'
Subject: RE: EVLT Coverage

Anne
Is it an insured item if provided in hospital.

Dr. Rinze (Ray) Dykstra, M.D; FRCSC
Medical Advisor
Ministry of Health
(250) 952 3189
Fax (250) 952 3133

-----Original Message-----
From: Tweed, Anne [mailto:Anne.Tweed@gov.ns.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 7:06 AM
To: Dave Hambly; ali.khan@gov.mb.ca
Cc: Zeljko.Bolesnikov@gnb.ca; raymond.howard@gov.ab.ca; Dykstra, Ray HLTH:EX; Denis.Hosking@gov.mb.ca; blairfleming@gov.nl.ca; jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca; Sandra.Paun@gov.yk.ca; allan.miller@health.gov.sk.ca; jcoucill@health.gov.sk.ca; Jude.Coutinho@moh.gov.on.ca
Subject: RE: EVLT Coverage

Hi Dave,

No we do not pay in NS when provided in a private clinic.

Anne

Anne Tweed MB,BS,FRCS(C)

Medical Consultant, Partnerships and Physician Services
Statement of Confidentiality

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From: Expertise Damdo <bp0151@ramq.gouv.qc.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 11:38 AM
To: Ali Khan, Allan Miller, Anne Tweed, Fleming, Blair, Denis Hosking, Lemire Jacques, Jd Hambly, Jim Corkal, Jim Coutill, Jude Coutinho, Rainville Bruno, Raymond Howard, Rinze Dykstra, Sandra Paun, Victor De Korompay, Zeljo Bolesnikov
Subject: TR: (399) BC MOH project – PT questions

Hello Vicki,

Sincerely,

Jacques Lemire
Médecin spécialisé
Service de l'expertise conseil
Direction des affaires professionnelles
Règle de l'assurance maladie du Québec
Tél.: (418) 682-5144 ext. 5410

De : Expertise Damdo
Envoyé : 13 juin 2014 09:43
À : Lemire Jacques
Objet : TR: (399) BC MOH project – PT questions

Pourriez-vous répondre à cette demande et la retourner à Expertise Damdo. Merci

Anne St-Hilaire
Contrôle des frais facturés aux personnes assurées
Service Expertise Conseil
4438

De : [Redacted]
Envoyé : 3 juin 2014 16:16
À : Raymond Howard; Coucill, James HE0; William.Rennie@gov.mb.ca; alkhan@gov.mb.ca; Rainville Bruno; Dr. Jude Coutinho; Expertise Damdo; Bolesnikov, Zeljko (DHW/SME); Anne Tweed; Dave Hambly; Blair Fleming; jim_corkal@gov.nt.ca; "Sandra.Paun; @gov.yk.ca; bquest@gov.nu.ca
Cc : Turnquist, Woodrow HLTH:EX; Eaton, Kirk E HLTH:EX; Crickmore, Jane HLTH:EX
Objet : (399) BC MOH project -- PT questions

Hi All;

I am doing a review of a number of ultrasound issues for the BC MOH (Laboratory, Diagnostic and Blood Services Branch) and am hoping you can help me by addressing these 5 points:
1. Do you have clinical urgency categories or wait time benchmarks for ultrasound services (outpatient or other)? There are no clinical categories created for ultrasound services.

2. What MoH requirements must be met for a facility to bill the plan for outpatient ultrasound services (or be funded by government if not in a fee-for-service environment)? All medical establishments that possess an ultrasound department can provide ultrasound services as long as it is medically required by a physician.

3. Are there different rules for public versus privately-owned facilities in terms of ultrasound tests they can perform? Yes, the privately-owned clinics performing ultrasounds are not reimbursed by the Régie. The exception to that rule is the ultrasound performed in the scope of the In vitro fertilisation program, where ultrasounds for some specific codes, can be done in a private clinic accredited by the government to provide such services.

4. Ultrasound telemetry:
   a. Do you have ultrasound telemetry? If so, in what circumstances? The telecommunication with supervision of a cardiac ultrasound including a final report can be used in tertiary centers with pediatric expertise (code 09163 : 84,10$). Another situation is an ultrasound of the abdomen or pelvis transmitted to another center (code 08381 : 55,50$).
   b. What allows ultrasound telemetry services on outpatients to be billed to the plan? So far, no outpatients have been included in that plan.

5. Do you recognize “tertiary prenatal ultrasound” as a distinct category, i.e., very detailed prenatal ultrasound? If so, who provides these services (radiologists / maternal-fetal-medicine specialists)? If so, are fees different versus basic prenatal ultrasound? The tertiary prenatal telemetry is not recognized as a distinct category but these specialized ultrasounds are done and described under « Échographie pelvienne ou obstétricale » of the section « K-ultrasononomraphie » of the Manuel des Médecins Spécialistes : Services de Laboratoire en Établissement.

   The fees vary according to the complexity of the test to be performed but they are not that different from other types of ultrasounds.

   However, we recognize an exceptional consultation in obstetrical ultrasound (rule 8.1 of the same section) based upon the complexity of the patient. The physicians are radiologists or OBGYN specialized in materno-fetal medicine in a tertiary center with a mother-child service and perform the service but cannot be from the same institution than the patient to qualify for that type of exceptional consultation (code 08313 : 134,70$).

Thanks very much

s. 34(1)(a)(i)
This email is free from viruses and malware because *avast! Antivirus* protection is active.
We seem to share many of the same issues.

Dr. Rinze (Ray) Dykstra, M.D; FRCSC
Medical Advisor
Ministry of Health
(250) 952 3189
Fax (250) 952 3133
Hi All;

I am doing a review of a number of ultrasound issues for the BC MOH (Laboratory, Diagnostic and Blood Services Branch) and am hoping you can help me by addressing these 5 points:

1. Do you have clinical urgency categories or wait time benchmarks for ultrasound services (outpatient or other)? There are no established benchmarks. Urgency categories are decided by the Ultrasound departments. I understand the wait times are not excessive.

2. What MOH requirements must be met for a facility to bill the plan for outpatient ultrasound services (or be funded by government if not in a fee-for-service environment)? Manitoba insures ultrasonography only in hospital based or designated facilities.

3. Are there different rules for public versus privately-owned facilities in terms of ultrasound tests they can perform? Privately owned ultrasound facilities are not paid fees by Manitoba Health and are not approved.

4. Ultrasound telemetry:
   a. Do you have ultrasound telemetry? If so, in what circumstances? Yes
   b. What allows ultrasound telemetry services on outpatients to be billed to the plan?

5. Do you recognize “tertiary prenatal ultrasound” as a distinct category, i.e., very detailed prenatal ultrasound? If so, who provides these services (radiologists / maternal-fetal-medicine specialists)? If so, are fees different versus basic prenatal
ultrasound? These are all done in hospital based ultrasound departments by Radiologists and some procedures may be done in conjunction with fetal medicine experts.

Thanks very much

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Blair Fleming Email Attachments
Transitioning of Select Hospital Based Services

Classification
FFS

Current State
Since 1998, surgical, diagnostic and therapeutic services rendered in facilities other than publicly funded hospitals have been deemed noninsured according to the Medical Care Insurance Insured Services Regulations Section 4 (x.1). The intent is to prohibit MCP from paying for such services when rendered in private settings.

There is a mechanism in place to seek approval of the Minister. The Diagnostic and Public Health Laboratories Regulations under the Public Health Act section 2 states that - 'A person shall not establish or operate within the province a facility or laboratory for the purpose of providing diagnostic or public health services unless that person has the written permission of the minister.'

The Department has been reviewing the current regulations. One of the main reasons expressed for this lack of movement is related to concerns around proper quality assurance. However, this is something that could be addressed by the College by simply adopting protocols from other provinces. Note: Most other province (albeit to varying degrees) already allow for this sort of thing to occur.

In the case of Ophthalmology, for example, intraocular injections for macular degeneration are currently being considered for movement into private facilities by the Department/RHA. This is being considered now because the HSC Eye Clinic lacks the available space and resources necessary to provide this service. These restrictions in turn affect timely access to appropriate care and follow-up.

Moving this type of service into a private facility, that has resources readily available to deal with it, removes a service delivery impediment at no extra cost to the RHA in terms of acquiring ancillary human resources, additional overhead expenses or physical infrastructure expansion/redesign, etc. It is likely that this is not the only area where the movement of such services into the private office environment could be considered.

In many cases, it may not be necessary to alter fees in order to accommodate this transition.

To be clear, this issue is not a public private debate. It is simply about choosing the most appropriate environment in which to provide specific public services so that we maximize available resources and provide timely access to appropriate care. These service(s) would still be publicly funded.
Proposed Approach

- Commission a joint study to look at transitioning some hospital based services (primarily diagnostic) to private physicians’ offices to help address issues such as:
  o Timeliness of care and follow-up
  o Cost-effectiveness
  o Quality assurance
  o Government’s responsibility to balance the delivery of care with its fiscal realities

Transitioning of select hospital-based services to a private office setting should result in a better coordinated, often more cost-effective, system as patients who wait too long inevitably end up costing the system more money. More timely access to care will be a direct benefit to patients.

It may be necessary to do a cost benefit analysis of each and every service before any decision on transitioning that service to the private office setting can be made. Such an analysis should not only look at the financials but also consider patient care/outcomes.

Estimated Cost
NIL – It is noted that volume increase are likely to occur from providing more timely access to care (until a steady state is reached) however, such costs should be offset with less downstream pressure because patients generally cost more to treat later on if their condition has deteriorated while waiting.
### AGENDA ITEMS

**North West Territories – Dr. Jim Corkal**

|   | One of the criteria we use in the NWT for funding out-of-territory services is whether or not the service is provided in a private facility.  
- Do we have a standard pan-jurisdictional definition for what constitutes a private facility? |
|---|---|
| Response | There is no specific definition of what a private facility is for either Out-of-Province (OOP) or Out-of-Country (OOC). The way we handle this issue is to define what type of facility is insured by OHIP when an Ontario patient receives services in another province/territory or OOC.  
For OOP only “facility costs” for services rendered in publicly funded hospitals (other than psychiatric hospitals) or facilities with which Ontario has a preferred provider arrangement (PPA) would be insured (to date we have no PPAs with any private OOP facilities). For insured services rendered in any other setting, only physician services are funded. Some would consider a physician office a private facility, and we would only pay physician fees for insured services rendered in this setting. The best example of this is probably what happens in Quebec which has many non-publicly funded facilities rendering the same services a publicly funded hospital might provide. So an Ontario patient seeking breast reduction in a publicly funded hospital in Quebec will have both the hospital costs and physician fees funded. However, if the patient had the same service in one of the facilities that is not a publicly funded hospital (a “private” facility), OHIP would only pay the physician fees. If the ministry were ever to establish a PPA with one of these private facilities, we would pay the negotiated facility fee to the facility for the facility costs related to the service.  
For OOC the ministry fully funds all costs for insured services related to the provision of the approved insured service, with the exception of out-patient medication, but only in facilities that meet the definition of an eligible facility under the regulation. The regulation defines this as a hospital that is licensed or approved as a hospital by the government in whose jurisdiction the hospital is situated, or a health facility that is licensed by the government in whose jurisdiction the health facility is situated and in which medical or surgical services are routinely rendered on an out-patient basis, or a facility with which the ministry has a preferred provider arrangement. The ministry does have some PPAs with some OOC facilities. The ministry also has some PPAs with OOC hospitals and it is worth noting that where a PPA exists for a specific type of service, the fee payable by the ministry is nil if the same service is rendered in any other facility (including a hospital) other than the one with which the ministry has the PPA. **Non-Responsive** |