

Frequently Asked Questions – H1N1 Physician Fee Items

General H1N1 Fee Information:

1. *Are the H1N1 fee items 'in effect' or will billings not be accepted until a pandemic is declared?*

Fee item PG13705 – Telephone Advice regarding H1N1 virus became effective on October 1, 2009 and may be billed anytime for a date of service from October 1, 2009.

Fee item PG13700 – GP Office Visit for H1N1 became effective on October 19, 2009 and may be billed anytime for a date of service from October 19, 2009.

The cancellation date of these Provisional fee items will be determined by the Provincial Health Officer.

2. *How will physicians obtain information on the cancellation date of these temporary fee items?*

Media announcements will be made by the Provincial Health Officer and physicians may additionally reference any of the following to determine the status of the new H1N1 fees:

<http://www.hls.gov.bc.ca/pho/physh1n1.html>
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoprac/physbilling/index.html>
<https://www.bcma.org/bcma-home-page>
<https://www.cpsbc.ca/index.php?q=home-page>
<http://www.sgp.bc.ca/>

Broadcast messages will also be sent on a regular basis.

3. *When will the fees end?*

Both the H1N1 Telephone Advice and H1N1 Office Visit fee items are intended to be in effect for a time-limited basis. The cancellation dates will be determined by the Provincial Health Officer.

4. *Who can bill these new fees?*

The PG13700 GP Office Visit for H1N1 virus fee item is restricted to GP's who have not billed a specialist fee item in the previous 12 months.

The PG13705 Telephone Advice regarding H1N1 virus fee item is available to both General Practitioners and Specialists, subject to the eligibility criteria listed in the Payment Schedule.

In addition, these two fee items are not payable to physicians who are employed by or who are under contract, or are working under salary, service contract or sessional arrangements, whose duties would otherwise include provision of this care.

5. *Where do I go for general information on H1N1?*

At the request of BC physicians, a physician-specific web resource <http://www.hls.gov.bc.ca/pho/physh1n1.html> has been established to provide a centralized and on-going source of current information about the emerging issues surrounding the novel H1N1 flu virus. This website was developed in partnership with the BC Medical Association, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of BC, the Ministry of Health Services and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.

6. *What code do I enter on my claim submission when billing the new H1N1 fees?*

In both fee codes “PG13700 GP Office Visit for H1N1” and “PG13705 Telephone Advice regarding H1N1” there are “P” and “G” alpha prefixes. “P” denotes provisional item, whereas “G” indicates the funding is not from the Available Amount. The alpha prefixes should not be included on the claim submission, just the relevant fee item numeric code (e.g., 13700 for GP Office Visit for H1N1 or 13705 for Telephone Advice regarding H1N1).

Questions and Answers Specific to PG13705 – Telephone Advice Regarding H1N1 Virus:

7. *Can a community health centre, that does primarily 'encounter billing', bill fee item 13705? They do have regular patients that see the physicians on a regular basis, except they receive block funding from the Health Authority rather than fee for service.*

If the physicians are receiving block funding and only submit encounter records, they should not be billing the H1N1 items.

8. *Can a physician's office utilize their community nurse for the telephone advice and still bill?*

There has to be a direct conversation between the physician and patient before fee item 13705 can be billed.

9. *Is an office visit payable on the same date of service as 13705? (e.g., the physician has spoken with the patient but then decides the patient needs to come in, for example, a maternity or elderly patient)*

If the physician decides he/she must see the patient on the same day, then the visit and 13705 are both payable.

10. *Can a Paediatrician or other specialty bill 13705 for H1N1 telephone advice?*

Yes, 13705 for H1N1 telephone advice is available for any specialty provided all other fee item criteria are met.

11. *The new Telephone Advice fee item is only payable when there is a pre-existing, on-going and longitudinal professional relationship between the patient and the physician. What is meant by a “pre-existing, on-going and longitudinal professional relationship”?*

This fee item is only payable to the practitioner that has accepted the role of Most Responsible Physician for the longitudinal, coordinated care of that patient.

12. *One of the criteria is that the phone call must be initiated by the patient or patient representative. How is "patient representative" defined?*

A patient representative is someone identified by the patient to represent them in discussions about their health.

13. *Is this payment eligible for rural premiums?*

Yes.

14. *Are locums able to bill this fee item?*

Yes. Locum coverage is considered part of the usual care provided by the host practitioner.

15. *If a physician is on-call for physicians outside their own practice and they take the call, can they bill for the H1N1 telephone advice even though there is no pre-existing relationship between the two or would the fact that this physician is the doc on-call for that patient's regular physician constitute the relationship?*

Yes, if the physician is part of a call group they can bill for the H1N1 telephone advice on a patient which they do not have a pre-existing longitudinal relationship.

16. *What ICD9 code(s) should I use when submitting a claim for this new fee item?*

One of the following Influenza 487 series codes should be used:

487 INFLUENZA
487.0 WITH PNEUMONIA
487.1 WITH OTHER RESPIRATORY MANIFESTATIONS
487.8 WITH OTHER MANIFESTATIONS

Questions and Answers Specific to PG13700 – GP Office Visit for H1N1 Virus:

17. *Is this office visit payable on the same date of service as the Telephone Advice fee item 13705? (e.g., the physician has spoken with the patient but then decide they need to come in, for example, a maternity or elderly patient)*

If the physician decides he/she must see the patient on the same day, then the visit and 13705 are both payable.

Fee item 13700 is not payable, however, in addition to any other office visits (e.g. 00100) for the same patient, same day.

18. *One of the criteria for the H1N1 office visit is that the fee item is not intended for providing general information on H1N1. What is meant by "general information"?*

Patients must have suspected or active H1N1 symptoms in order for the physician to bill PG13700. A physician may not bill a PG13700 if a patient wants to discuss H1N1 preventative measures. HealthLinkBC (telephone 8-1-1 or website

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/h1n1.asp>) is available to provide general H1N1 related information to patients.

19. *Will the new office visit fee item count against the daily volume limit?*

No, fee item PG13700 is not subject to Daily Volume Discounting.

20. *Is Preamble 12 d applicable when a patient comes in for a procedure at the same time as the H1N1-related office visit? (e.g., one of more procedures are performed which are unrelated to the purpose of the visit)*

Yes.

21. *Is this payment eligible for rural premiums?*

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22. *Are locums able to bill this fee item?*

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