

Physician Compensation for H1N1

A resurgence of the H1N1 virus is expected in fall of 2009. The Medical Services Division, Ministry of Health Services (MoHS) has engaged with the Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport (MoHLS) and the BC Medical Association (BCMA) to assist in H1N1 planning for physicians and in particular, establishing payment mechanisms to ensure that physicians are appropriately compensated in the event of a H1N1 pandemic.

In anticipation of an increased volume of patients for physicians during an H1N1 pandemic outbreak, two new temporary fee codes have been approved by the Medical Services Commission and introduced in the Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule, Section of General Practice to facilitate treatment by physicians: "Office Visit for H1N1 Virus" and "Telephone Advice Regarding H1N1 Virus."

In the event of an H1N1 pandemic, both proposed new fee items would be temporary (time-limited) and instituted/concluded at the declaration of the Provincial Health Officer.

PG13700 GP Office Visit for H1N1 virus \$31.15

Effective October 19, 2009

Available to General Practitioners

Notes:

- i) Restricted to GP's who have not billed a specialist consult in the previous 12 months.
- ii) Payable for patients with suspected or active H1N1 symptoms only.
- iii) Not intended for providing general information on H1N1.
- iv) Not payable in addition to any other office visits for same patient, same day.
- v) Not subject to Daily Volume Discounting.

PG13705 Telephone Advice regarding H1N1 virus \$14.74

Effective October 1, 2009

Available to both General Practitioners and Specialist Physicians

Notes:

- i) Payable when there is a pre-existing, on-going and longitudinal professional relationship between the patient and the physician.
- ii) Payable for direct physician telephone advice about the patient's suspected or active H1N1 symptoms, provided to the patient or the patient's caregiver.
- iii) Not intended for providing general information on H1N1.
- iv) Phone call must be initiated by patient or patient representative.
- v) Dates of service under this item and a brief notation of the advice given should be documented in the patient's record together with the name of the patient's representative (if appropriate).
- vi) Includes providing a new prescription or prescription renewal if rendered.
- vii) Limited to two (2) calls per patient per day.

Associated ICD-9 codes to be used with the H1N1-related fees include: 487 INFLUENZA; 487.0 WITH PNEUMONIA; 487.1 WITH OTHER RESPIRATORY MANIFESTATIONS; and 487.8 WITH OTHER MANIFESTATIONS

When submitting a billing claim for either “PG13700 GP Office Visit for H1N1” or “PG13705 Telephone Advice regarding H1N1” the alpha prefixes should not be included on the claim submission (e.g. submit 13700 for GP Office Visit for H1N1 or 13705 for Telephone Advice regarding H1N1).