

# OUT-OF-OFFICE HOURS PREMIUMS

(Applicable to General Practitioners and Specialists)

## Explanatory Notes

- a) The out-of-office hours premium listings apply only to those services initiated and rendered within the designated time limits. They apply to visits to a physician's office only if the office is officially closed during the designated time period.
- b) Call-out charges apply only when the physician is specially called to render emergency or non-elective services and only when the physician must travel from one location to another to attend the patient(s).
- c) The call-out charge applies only to the first patient examined or treated on any one special visit. A call-out charge is applicable to each special call-out whether or not a previous call-out charge has been billed for the same patient on the same day.

For example, a physician may provide a consultation during out-of-office hours for which a call-out charge is applicable. The physician may then perform an operation on the same patient at a different time during out-of-office hours. If the physician was specially called, on separate occasions, to render both services and was required to travel from one location to another for both services, it would be appropriate to bill a call-out charge for the consultation and a call-out charge for the operation in addition to the regular fees for the services and any applicable continuing care operative and non-operative surcharges.

- d) Within the foregoing guidelines, the call-out charges are also applicable to the attending surgeon post-operatively even though the visit itself may not be chargeable as described in Preamble B. 9(a).
- e) The operative continuing care surcharge applies also to surgical assistant fees.
- f) The "home visit" (00103) and "emergency visit when specially called" listings (00111, 00112, 00115, 00205, 00205, 02505, 00305, 00405, 03005, 04005, 00505, 00605, 01705, 06005, 07005, 07805, 08005, 30005, 31005, 32005, 33005, 33205, 33305, 33405, 33505, 33605, 33705, 77005, 79005, 94005) are not payable in addition to the out-of-office hours premium. Neither are emergency visits payable to the attending surgeon (or his/her substitute) within 10 post-operative days from a surgical procedure (except "operation only" procedures).
- g) The non-operative continuing care surcharge applies to delivery only (not standby time or first stage of labour). State continuous time spent with the patient during second or third stages of labour only.
- h) These items are not applicable to full or part-time emergency physicians, or physicians designated by a hospital emergency room as the on duty/on site physician. Those physicians are referred to the Emergency Medicine Section of the Payment Schedule.
- i) Call-out charges and continuing care surcharges are also applicable when called from home to provide "top-ups" under fee code 01103 or for obstetrical epidural anesthesia, or to provide subsequent resuscitative care under fee code 01088.
- j) The non-operative continuing care surcharge is payable to general practitioners, medical specialists and surgical specialists when non-operative services are provided. Continuing care surcharges are payable to radiologists and laboratory (including nuclear medicine) physicians only when the primary service to which the continuing care surcharges apply are payable by MSP on a fee-for-service basis.

- k) The following applies in the event that a consultation or visit is followed by surgery: 1) the non-operative continuing care surcharge applies to the consultation or visit, and 2) the operative continuing care surcharge applies to the surgery.
- l) Physicians providing anesthetic services may be eligible for continuing care surcharges even if the service is initiated before 1800 hours. That portion of anesthetic services rendered within the designated times are eligible for continuing care surcharges if they fulfil the requirements described in the Anesthetic Continuing Care Surcharges section.

**Call-Out Charges**

- Extra to consultation or other visit, or to procedure if no consultation or other visit charged.

01200	Evening (call placed between 1800 hrs. and 2300 hrs. and service rendered between 1800 hrs. and 0800 hrs.).....	57.88
01201	Night (call placed and service rendered between 2300 hrs. and 0800 hrs.).....	81.30
01202	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday ..... (call placed between 0800 hrs. and 1800 hrs.)	57.88

**Note:** Claims must state time called **and** time service rendered.

**Continuing Care Surcharges**

- a) **NON-OPERATIVE** - applicable when an out-of-office hours call-out charge is applicable or when specially called for an emergency. Timing begins after the first 30 minutes for consultations, visits or anesthetic evaluations. Payment is based on one half hour of care or major portion thereof. Therefore, the first surcharge is billable after 45 minutes of continuous care.

Applicable also, without the 30 minute time lapse and with timing continuing, to immediately subsequent patients seen on the same call-out, under the following conditions:

- i) as an emergency;
- ii) to provide "top-ups" under fee code 01103 or for obstetrical epidural anesthesiology;
- iii) to provide subsequent resuscitative care under fee code 01088.

Surcharges do not apply to time spent standing by and are based on the amount of time providing care, regardless of the number of patients attended or services provided.

01205	Evening (service rendered between 1800 hrs. and 2300 hrs.) - per half hour or major part thereof .....	48.35
01206	Night (service rendered between 2300 hrs. and 0800 hrs.) - per half hour or major part thereof .....	72.77
01207	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (call placed between 0800 hrs. and 1800 hrs.) - per half hour or major part thereof .....	53.22

**Notes:**

- i) State time called and time service rendered.
- ii) Where timing is continuous submit an account for each patient, indicating "CCFPP" (continuing care from previous patient).
- iii) Not applicable to full or part-time emergency practitioners or to on site practitioners providing coverage in drop-in emergency clinics or hospital emergency rooms.

**b) OPERATIVE** - applicable only to emergency surgery or to elective surgery which, because of intervening emergency surgery, commences within the designated times. Applicable only to surgical procedure(s) requiring general, spinal or epidural anesthesiology and/or requiring at least 45 minutes of surgical time.

01210	Evening (1800 hrs. to 2300 hrs.) 37.59% of surgical (or assistant) fee	
	- minimum charge .....	52.06
	- maximum charge .....	359.21
01211	Night (2300 hrs. to 0800 hrs.) 60.27% of surgical (or assistant) fee	
	- minimum charge .....	73.13
	- maximum charge .....	504.43
01212	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (call placed between 0800 hrs. and 1800 hrs.) 37.59% of surgical (or assistant) fee	
	- minimum charge .....	52.06
	- maximum charge .....	359.21

**Notes:**

- i) *When surgery commences within evening time period (1800 – 2300 hrs) and continues into night time period (2300 – 0800 hrs), the appropriate item for billing is determined by the period in which the major portion of the surgical time is spent.*
- ii) *When emergency surgery commences prior to 1800, even if the major portion of surgical time is after 1800, surgical surcharges are not applicable.*
- iii) *If emergency surgery commences prior to 0800 and continues after 0800, surcharges are applicable to the entire surgical time.*
- iv) *Claim must state time surgery commenced.*

**These items are not applicable to full or part time emergency practitioners, designated by a hospital emergency room as the on duty/on site physician and billing under the Emergency Medicine Section of the Payment Schedule.**

**(c) ANESTHESIA** - Anesthetic services are eligible for continuing care surcharges when an out-of-office hours call-out charge is applicable or when specially called for an emergency. Timing begins after the first 30 minutes for consultations, visits or anesthetic evaluations. Payment is based on one half hour of care or major portion thereof. Therefore, the first surcharge is payable after 45 minutes of continuous care when a call-out charge is applicable. If a call-out charge is not applicable then the first continuing care surcharge is payable after 15 minutes of continuous care as long as the anesthetic service is rendered within the designated times.

Applicable also, without the 30 minute time lapse and with timing continuing, to immediately subsequent patients seen on the same call-out, under the following conditions:

- i) as an emergency;
- ii) to provide "top-ups" under fee code 01103 or for obstetrical epidural anesthesia;
- iii) to provide subsequent resuscitative care under fee code 01088.

Surcharges do not apply to time spent standing by unless code 01112 is payable and are based on the amount of time providing care, regardless of the number of patients attended or services provided.

		<b>Total Fee \$</b>
T01215	Evening (service rendered between 1800 hrs. and 2300 hrs.) - per half hour or major part thereof .....	48.35
T01216	Night (service rendered between 2300 hrs. and 0800 hrs.) - per half hour or major part thereof .....	72.77
T01217	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (call placed between 0800 hrs. and 1800 hrs.) - per half hour or major part thereof .....	53.22

**Notes:**

- i) *State time called and time service rendered.*
- ii) *Where timing is continuous submit an account for each patient,*
- iii) *indicating "CCFPP" (continuing care from previous patient).*
- iv) *Not applicable to full or part-time emergency physicians or to on site practitioners providing coverage in drop-in emergency clinics or hospital emergency rooms.*
- v) *When emergency services commence prior to 1800 hours (weekday) and extend beyond 1800 hours, anesthetic surcharges are applicable to the time after 1800 hours. Timing begins at 1800 hours and surcharge payments are based on one half hour of care or major portion thereof. Therefore, the 01215 surcharge in these cases is payable after 15 minutes of continuous care (i.e.: 1815 hours).*
- vi) *When emergency anesthetic services commence prior to 0800 hours and continue after 0800 hours, anesthetic surcharges are only applicable to the time prior to 0800 hours.*
- vii) *Anesthetic surcharges are applicable to services associated with elective surgery which, because of intervening emergency surgery, extends into or commences within the designated times.*