

ANNUAL SELECTION PROCESS FOR SPECIALIST SERVICES – APPLICATIONS OPENED – DEADLINE for Notification – September 4th, 2009

The Physician Master Agreement sets out an annual process by which physician specialists and health authorities can jointly make an application for a limited amount of funding that will allow physician specialists and health authorities to change from fee-for-service compensation to either a service contract or salary in order to

- (a) maintain or improve access to, delivery of, and outcomes from physician services;
- (b) maintain or enhance service delivery through a team-based approach that links together the services of physicians and, where applicable, other health professionals employed by physicians or through a Health Authority linked to a program service area;
- (c) improve recruitment and retention of physicians;
- (d) establish a fiscally sustainable basis for the provision of medical services, recognizing the compensation framework and expenditure envelope established for physician services under this Agreement; and effectively utilize standard approaches to changes in form of compensation for physician services that are fair, transparent and aligned to the strategic priorities of the Government and the operational priorities of the Health Authorities..

Process & Timeline

Interested specialist physicians and health authority **must** apply jointly. Applications are reviewed and ranked by the Annual Selection Process – Joint Evaluation Committee (ASP Evaluation Committee) comprised of three members from the BCMA and three from the Ministry of Health Services. Applications will be assessed using criteria that determine if the change would accomplish the objectives (a) to (d) listed above.

Two intakes are proposed over the coming year: a fast-tracked 2009 application process and a 2010 process as per the agreed to schedule commencing on February 1st, 2010.

Timeline for 2009 Intake

Notice by health authorities or physicians to the other expressing an interest in moving to a salary or service contract need to be received by the other **before Friday, September 4th, 2009 12PM PDT**. Joint submissions from the physician(s) and a health authority are to be delivered to the ASP Evaluation Committee by **Thursday, October 8th, 2009 12PM PDT**. Such submissions must contain the names and contact information for both the physician(s) and the health authority and are to be directed to:

Physician Compensation, Medical Services Division
Ministry of Health Services
3-2, 1515 Blanshard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8
E MAIL: Laurie.Stein@gov.bc.ca

The application form is available at <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/legislation/bcmaagree.html>

The ASP Evaluation Committee may request further information and aims to inform the applicants of their decision **by Wednesday, October 28th, 2009**. Unsuccessful applicants will then have two weeks to request a debriefing that would be held prior to **Thursday, November 12th, 2009**. Successful applicants will need to prepare a service contract(s) or salary agreement(s) in a manner consistent with the written endorsement provided by the ASP Evaluation Committee and the Physician Master Agreement's Alternative Payments Subsidiary Agreement.

If unsuccessful, the applicants would have a choice of entering a dispute process as described in the PMA or using the feedback obtained in the debrief to re-apply for the 2010 process, commencing on February 1st, 2010.

Important other considerations

Please note that only new applications for transfer will be considered – this is not intended for physicians already on a service contract or salary arrangement. Your billing data will be reviewed as part of the evaluation and if the application is successful, on an on-going basis after that. Funding will be done in rank of scoring and funding will be distributed according to the available funding amount.

In order to enhance your understanding of the proposed process, we encourage you to contact your local health authority representatives

Peter Owen, Director, Medical Affairs, Fraser Health Authority
Kelly Murphy, Director, Medical Administration, Interior Health Authority
Patrick Barrette, Coordinator, Physician Contract Management, Northern Health Authority
Sherri Minnie, Corporate Director, Revenue & Accountability, Physician Compensation Office, Provincial Health Services Authority
Warren Hart, Director, Medical Affairs, Providence Health Care Society
Jim Fisher, Director, Physician Relations & Compensation, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Doug Blackie, Director, Physician Compensation, Vancouver Island Health Authority

or

Physician Compensation, Medical Services Division
Ministry of Health Services
3-2, 1515 Blanshard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8
E MAIL: Laurie.Stein@gov.bc.ca

Or

Dr. Alexandra Tcheremenska
Associate CEO
BC Medical Association
115 – 1665 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5A4
Email: atcheremenska@bcma.bc.ca