

Billing Education Article By Dr. Rhonda Church

PAEDIATRICS BILLING EDUCATION SESSION CONTENT

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What a T Rex of a winter this has been. I'll be happy when my driveway is no longer a luge track, and I can grouse about weeding and blackflies rather than shoveling and the passable-with-caution Highway 103. And I'll be very happy when we finally manage to pull off our Paediatrics Billing Education Session.

We have just scheduled this session for the fourth time. All winter, it has seemed that the surest way to whip up a blizzard was to schedule the session and wait for Old Man Winter to note the date.

I'd like to thank the paediatric community for their patience. After the session, we will be putting a copy of the presentation on the MSI Website. If you haven't visited the website in a while, it's worth taking a look. There is a great deal of information including links to billing documents and subscribing to MSI's Bulletins and an FAQ section. Soon we will also be posting copies of all articles I've written for the Doctors NS magazine.

The website may be found at: www.medavie.bluecross.ca/msiprograms

It's our hope that both new and seasoned billers will return to their practices with a few pearls. Here are a few samples from the presentation:

Billing Basics

- The most current Physician's Manual was published in September of 2014. This Manual marked an important milestone as the content of the manual was merged with the Billing Instructions Manual for the first time. The document is available online only and is fully searchable.
- Within Nova Scotia's Health service codes there are both visit codes (which include limited and comprehensive visits, consultations, and counselling/psychotherapy services) and procedural codes (including diagnostic and therapeutic services, major surgical, minor surgical, and add on procedures). Each category and subcategory is governed by a common set of rules and those relevant to a general paediatric practice will be discussed.

Did you know? New and Lesser Known Health Service Codes

- Paediatrics is one of several specialty groups able to claim a prolonged consultation in circumstances in which the paediatrician spends more than an hour directly with the patient. An additional time multiple may be claimed after one hour for each additional 15 minutes or portion thereof. As with all time based codes, the start and finish times of the encounter with the patient must be recorded on the clinical record and in the text field on the claim to MSI. For details and information on other such specialties please see Preamble sections 5.1.103 through 5.3.105.
- For end of life care, palliative care support visits may be claimed for patients who are registered with the District Health Authority Integrated Palliative Care Service. The Palliative Care Support Visit (Health Service Code 03.03C) is another time based code. The physician is required to spend at least 80% of the time claimed directly with the patient and start and finish times of the encounter are to be recorded on the clinical record and in the text field on the claim to MSI.

Common Billing Errors

- If the physician asks the patient to return for follow up a follow-up visit i.e. not a new consultation should be claimed. Paediatricians have several follow-up visit codes available; we will discuss the Preamble requirements for each.
- In order to claim a visit, the physician must personally render the visit. Physicians cannot claim for visits provided by nurses or nurse practitioners. However, in some circumstances, they may claim for services provided by medical trainees.

We appreciate the overwhelmingly positive feedback on both these columns and the Billing Education Sessions. We are always open to suggestions for future columns; they may be passed along via [MSI_Assessment @medavle.bluecross.ca](mailto:MSI_Assessment@medavle.bluecross.ca)

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