

PHYSICIAN'S BULLETIN

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Billing Matters Billing Reminders, Updates, New Explanatory Codes

COVID-19 VACCINATION (1ST AND 2ND DOSES) PHYSICIAN CLINIC REMUNERATION

The various payment methods for COVID-19 Vaccination indicated below are available for **Physician Clinics coordinated by Doctors Nova Scotia**. These do not apply to NSHA 'community' or 'public health' clinics (e.g. large arenas, First Nations Reserves, mobile units, longterm care facilities) nor does it apply to physicians who are independently participating in pharmacy or other clinics where remuneration has been pre-arranged.

For immunizations, tray fees (health service code 13.59M) may only be claimed if a physician incurs costs and may not be claimed when the supplies are provided by the government. For the current provincial rollout (doses 1 and 2), supplies will be provided by Nova Scotia and, therefore, cannot be claimed.

Physicians seeking to claim for immunizations rendered by nurses and nurse practitioners in their practice can only do so when the physicians are onsite during the time of immunization and those healthcare personnel are directly employed by the physician, and not when they are employed by the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Note: for the sessional payment option, physicians must provide the services themselves and cannot claim for any immunizations administered by other healthcare personnel.

1. Fee for Service

For individual physicians who are providing COVID-19 immunizations as Fee for Service (FFS), these injections are to be claimed under the existing FFS business arrangement. These services will be claimed using the health service code 13.59L, following the rules set in Preamble 5.3.26 concerning provincial immunizations. A modifier has been developed for COVID-19 vaccines and must be used in conjunction with the 13.59L: **RO=CO19**.

Category	Code	Description	Base Units
ADON	13.59L	Provincial Immunization for COVID-19 RO=CO19	6 MSU
		Description COVID-19 vaccination	

COVID-19 VACCINATION PHYSICIAN CLINIC REMUNERATION (CONTINUED)

2. **Alternative Funding (e.g., APP, CEC, C/AFP)** – No shadow billing requirement

Physicians who are providing COVID-19 immunizations as part of their Alternative Funding agreement deliverables (e.g., APP, CEC, C/AFP) will have the option to integrate any COVID-19 work into their existing contracted hours and be paid through their existing business arrangement. Although shadow billing is not required for immunizations, the shadow billing could make a positive difference to overall shadow billing for the year (e.g., eligibility for the APP 5.6% bonus). These injections would be shadow billed using health service code 13.59L following the rules set in Preamble 5.3.26 concerning provincial immunizations. A modifier has been developed for COVID-19 vaccines and must be used in conjunction with the 13.59L: **RO=CO19**.

Alternatively, physicians may request an exclusion from the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) to deliver the vaccination services over and above their regular contracted hours. A request for exclusion must be approved by DHW by emailing: alternate.funding@novascotia.ca.

3. **Individual Sessional** – No shadow billing requirement

Physicians receiving remuneration via sessional funding for the hours administering the vaccine are paid at the GP rate of \$157.80 per hour (2021-22 rate). Sessional funding claims should be submitted to Medavie on a weekly basis; however, all claims must be submitted within 90 days of service per the Physician Manual. Any claims submitted outside this 90-day approval period are not payable. The claim must be reviewed and approved by an immunization clinic site manager or designate. Once approved, the claim should be submitted to Medavie for payment: email afpclaims@medavie.bluecross.ca and copy alternate.funding@novascotia.ca. If a physician requires a sessional form, they should contact alternate.funding@novascotia.ca.

NOTE:

Each clinic must be remunerated in the same method; sessional and FFS cannot be combined in a clinic. The only exception would be if an APP, CEC or C/AFP physician is including immunization into their scheduled hours for any given week; these physicians can do so while their colleagues are receiving FFS or individual sessional payment.

REMINDERS

CMPA Rebate

The Department of Health and Wellness (through MSI) will continue to provide reimbursement of all eligible Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) fees directly to physicians. Payments will be issued on a quarterly payment schedule and deposited through an electronic funds transfer. Medavie and DHW are working on options to better enable appropriate payment and better accountability. Stay tuned for changes.

These payments are deposited through an electronic funds transfer. If you do not already have a CMPA Business Arrangement set up to receive these deposits, you may fill out the [MSI Provider Business Arrangement Form](#) with a void cheque and email to msiproviders@medavie.ca or fax to 902-469-4674.

Should you have any questions regarding your CMPA rebate, please contact: CMPA@medavie.ca



NEW AND UPDATED EXPLANATORY CODES

Code	Description
AD088	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS A CLAIM FOR 13.59L RO=CO19 HAS BEEN APPROVED IN THE PREVIOUS 18 DAYS.
MA008	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED. INTERIM SERVICE CODE HAS EXPIRED. APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE FEE COMMITTEE FOR ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT HEALTH SERVICE CODE.
VE029	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN DISALLOWED AS AN OUTPATIENT VISIT OR CONSULT FROM A RELATED SPECIALTY HAS BEEN CLAIMED FOR THIS PATIENT ON THAT DATE.
VT172	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN DISALLOWED AS A CHRONIC DIALYSIS MANAGEMENT DAILY TREATMENT AND SUPERVISION FEE HAS BEEN CLAIMED FOR THIS PATIENT ON THAT DATE.
PC036	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS YOU HAVE NOT INDICATED THAT PRIOR APPROVAL HAS BEEN ISSUED. MAXIMUM LIMIT OF 9 HOURS FOR A PSP PHYSICIAN PER YEAR FOR COUNSELLING HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPROVED.



In every issue Helpful links, contact information, events and news, updated files

UPDATED FILES

Updated files reflecting changes are available for download on Friday May 14th, 2021. The files to download are:
Health Service (SERVICES.DAT), Health Service Description (SERV_DSC.DAT), Modifiers (MODVALS.DAT) and Explanatory Codes (EXPLAIN.DAT).

CONTACT INFORMATION

NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL INSURANCE (MSI)

Phone: 902-496-7011
Toll-Free: 1-866-553-0585
Fax: 902-490-2275
Email:
MSI_Assessment@medavie.bluecross.ca

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Phone: 902-424-5818
Toll-Free: 1-800-387-6665
(In Nova Scotia)
TTY/TDD: 1-800-670-8888

HELPFUL LINKS

NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL INSURANCE (MSI)
<http://msi.medavie.bluecross.ca/>

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS
www.novascotia.ca/dhw/

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