

Physician Reminder

ELECTIVE OUT OF PROVINCE AND OUT OF COUNTRY SERVICES

ELECTIVE OUT OF PROVINCE SERVICES (WITHIN CANADA)

Prior approval is required from the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness before referring a patient out of province for insured health services unavailable in Nova Scotia if the patient wishes to be considered for travel and accommodation assistance. Approval must be sought through the Medical Consultant, MSI.

The referral must be from a specialist registered in Nova Scotia, who is actively involved in the eligible resident's care. The referral must include the following:

- A description of the eligible resident's relevant medical history.
- A description of the health services requested as well as an estimation of the expected benefit to the patient.
- Confirmation that the health service(s) are provided in a publicly funded facility and are covered by the medical insurer in the proposed province.
- Written confirmation of the medical evidence supporting the requested health service.
- When the proposed health service is a new or emerging health service, documentation must be included of reputable clinical trials beyond Phase III, published in peer reviewed medical literature.
- Information on the available health services in Nova Scotia and an explanation of why these are not sufficient for the resident's needs.
- The contact information of the physician who will be treating the patient so a copy of the approval documentation can be forwarded to their office.
- A description of any follow-up requirements.
- A written recommendation in support of the out-of-province health services, confirming that this is the specialist's recommendation and that the referral is not being provided solely at the request of the patient.
- Written confirmation of, the patient's medical requirement for travel with an escort, if required.
- The costs for an escort will not be covered by DHW if there is no medical evidence to support the need for an escort. Evidence of medical need for an escort is not required if the resident is under 19 years of age.

MSI will review the application and provide a response to the appropriate specialist within 30 days of receiving a complete application.

Upon approval of the application, the Department of Health and Wellness will contact the eligible resident and provide the appropriate application forms for travel and accommodation assistance.

ELECTIVE OUT OF COUNTRY SERVICES

Individuals requiring elective, insured health services that are not available within Canada must be authorized by the DHW prior to making any medical and/or travel arrangement to ensure the service will be insured and in order for the DHW/MSI to negotiate a reasonable and fair compensation with out of country providers prior to the provision of services. In order for a patient to be referred outside Canada for treatment, prior written approval is required from the Medical Consultant, MSI.

The referral must be from a specialist registered in Nova Scotia, who is actively involved in the eligible resident's care. The referral must include the following:

- A description of the eligible resident's relevant medical history.
- A description of the health services requested as well as an estimation of the expected benefit to the patient.
- The contact information of the physician who will be treating the patient so a copy of the approval documentation can be forwarded to their office.
- Written confirmation of the medical evidence supporting the requested health service.
- When the proposed health service is a new or emerging health service, documentation must be included of reputable clinical trials beyond Phase III, published in peer reviewed medical literature.
- Information on the available health services in Canada and an explanation of why these are not sufficient for the resident's needs.
- A description of any follow-up requirements.
- A written recommendation in support of the out-of-country health services, confirming that this is the specialist's recommendation and that the referral is not being provided solely at the request of the patient.
- Written confirmation of the patient's medical requirement for travel with an escort, if required.
- The costs for an escort will not be covered by DHW if there is no medical evidence to support the need for an escort. Evidence of medical need for an escort is not required if the resident is under 19 years of age.

MSI will review the application and provide a response to the appropriate specialist within 30 days of receiving a complete application.

Upon approval of the application, the Department of Health and Wellness will contact the eligible resident and provide the appropriate application forms for travel and accommodation assistance.

MEDICARE PAYMENT STATEMENT REMINDER

Prior to June 2021, MSI distributed the following pay statements:

- Electronic statement associated with the biweekly payment of FFS patient specific claims. There are two versions: a preformatted report and an extract of the data on the statement. This statement is accessible via an electronic request often submitted through your practice management software.
- Paper statement associated with the payment of non-FFS patient specific claims, e.g., AFP, APP, sessional, psychiatric hourly, CMPA and incentives.

Effective June 2, 2021 onward, the paper statement noted above has been replaced with an electronic statement. You are able to view and print this statement through a new web-based user interface. The statement is identical to the previous preformatted report.

The existing process that submitters utilize to download the statement associated with FFS patient specific claims has not changed.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can be reached at msi_assessment@medavie.bluecross.ca or 902-496-7011/toll-free 1-866-553-0585.