

PHYSICIAN'S BULLETIN

November 22, 2024: Vol. LXIX, ISSUE 8



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NEW INTERIM FEE

Effective September 18, 2024 the following interim health service code is available for billing:

| Category | Code | Description | Base Units | Anae Units |
|----------|--------|---|------------|------------|
| MASG | 92.84B | Arthroscopic Repair (Hip) with Labral Tear | 473 MSU | 4 + T |
| | | Description This interim fee code is only for orthopedic surgeons who specialize in hip arthroscopy with labral tear. MSI must pre-approve use of this code by providers. | | |
| | | Billing Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricted to orthopedic surgeons with prior approval from MSI.• Maximum one hip arthroscopy payable per patient per day.• Hip arthroscopies are composite fees and include all necessary procedures. No other procedures involving the hip are payable during the same operation. | | |
| | | Specialty: SP=ORTH with expertise in this procedure – prior approval required | | |
| | | Assistant: RO=SRAS allowed | | |
| | | Regions: RG=LEFT or RG=RIGT | | |
| | | Location: LO=HOSP | | |

NEW UPCOMING INTERIM FEE

The following service will be effective December 1, 2024; however, physicians are required to hold their claims until the system is updated. Notification and the health service code will be published in an upcoming Physician's Bulletin when claims can be submitted.

| Category | Code | Description | Base Units |
|----------|------|--|------------|
| DEFT | TBD | Advance Care Planning Discussion Description Advance Care Planning Discussion may be claimed when the patient's family physician, or if the patient is admitted to an acute care facility, their most responsible physician, has a face to face (in person) conversation with the patient (or the patients substitute decision maker either face to face or virtually) to discuss their wishes for future health care based on their beliefs and values, determines the substitutes decision maker (SDM), documents the conversation in the patient's health record, and captures the outcome of that conversation by completing the initial Patient-Centered Priorities and Goals of Care (GOC) form. In extenuating circumstances, for established homebound patients only, as defined by the Preamble, this service may be rendered virtually by telephone or PHIA compliant video platform. The circumstances necessitating the virtual visit must be documented in the health record. Where possible, the GOC form should be submitted to the patient's hospital chart through the appropriate health records department. A copy of the document must be shared with the patient so that it may be added to their Green Sleeve folder, if applicable. Billing Guidelines: Documentation of the Advance Care Planning Discussion, the patient appointment substitute decision maker, and resultant completion of the Patient-Centered Priorities and Goals of Care (GOC) form must be in the patient's health record AND, where possible, the GOC form must be sent/faxed to the appropriate hospital records department for inclusion in the patient's hospital chart. May not be claimed where this service is part of the compensation for an existing health service: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 03.04D Geriatrician's Initial Comprehensive Consultation• 03.04E Family Physician's Initial Geriatric Inpatient Medical Assessment• CGA1 LTC Clinical Geriatric Assessment• 03.09C Palliative Care Consultation• 03.09H Antenatal Palliative Care Consultation• Critical Care HSC's Adult and Pediatric | 15 MSU |



FACILITY ON CALL UPDATES

Effective October 21, 2024, the following Rota may be billed from an additional facility (18):

| Health Service Code | Description | Weekday | Weekend/Holidays (DA=RGE1) | Approved Facilities |
|---------------------|---|---------|----------------------------|--|
| F1008 | Facility on Call Category 1 Family Medicine O.R. Call Assists | \$350 | \$500 | Valley Regional, St. Martha's, Cape Breton Regional, Dartmouth General, Aberdeen, Cumberland Regional, Colchester East Hants Health Centre |

Effective November 25, 2024, the following Rota may be billed from an additional facility (166528):

| Health Service Code | Description | Weekday | Weekend/Holidays (DA=RGE1) | Approved Facilities |
|---------------------|---|---------|----------------------------|--|
| F1006 | Facility on Call Category 1 Hospitalist | \$350 | \$500 | IWK/Grace, West Bedford Transitional Care Facility |



Billing Matters Billing Reminders, Updates, New Explanatory Codes

Physician Retirement Fund

The Government has introduced a retirement fund initiative for physicians practicing in Nova Scotia. This retirement fund will support physicians in their continued clinical practice in Nova Scotia and assist in their long-term financial planning. Please see an updated FAQ: [Retirement Fund FAQ](#)

Audiologist Referrals to Specialists

As published in the July 26, 2024 physician's bulletin, the specialties otolaryngology, neurology, and internal medicine may claim a consultation when a patient is referred to them by an audiologist. The referring audiologist number is only required when claiming an 03.07 or 03.08 as this is a referral required service. The specialist may then claim any necessary insured procedures or services as they have received a valid referral for that patient. The referring audiologist number is not required on claims for any follow-up care/procedures after the consultation. Entering an audiologist referring provider number in procedures/services after the consultation may result in the claim being rejected, as a referring provider is not required on these claims.

As a reminder, MSI will pay for a visit or consultation to determine if a treatment method is insured, even though the proposed procedure is non-insured. If the proposed procedure or treatment is always uninsured, a visit or consultation may not be claimed. (2.2.9)

Physicians Manual

Applicable updates in the Physician's Bulletin's will be reflected in the [Physician's Manual](#) within 3 weeks; however, it may be necessary to refer to Physician's Bulletins for additional detailed information and any billing clarifications or reminders.



NEW AND UPDATED EXPLANATORY CODES

| Code | Description |
|-------|--|
| GN131 | SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED GAC PHYSICIAN DECLARATION IN ORDER TO CLAIM 03.04K. |
| MJ095 | SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS HSC 92.84B HAS ALREADY BEEN CLAIMED FOR THIS PATIENT ON THIS DAY. |
| MJ096 | SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS HSC 92.84B IS A COMPOSITE FEE AND MAY NOT BE CLAIMED AT THE SAME SERVICE OCCURRENCE AS ANY OTHER PROCEDURES INVOLVING THE HIP. |
| MJ097 | SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS HSC 92.84B IS A COMPOSITE FEE. NO OTHER PROCEDURES INVOLVING THE HIP MAY BE CLAIMED AT THE SAME SERVICE OCCURRENCE. |

NOTICE TO VENDORS – UPCOMING TECHNICAL CHANGES REQUIRED

Communication has been sent to vendors on October 16, and October 31, 2024 regarding upcoming technical changes related to the service encounter detail record data to support upcoming payment requirements. The specifications were included in the communication, and an updated [Vendor Manual](#) has been uploaded on the MSI website.

The modifications made to vendor software need to be communicated to, and validated by, Medavie Blue Cross.

To schedule a date to have your software tested, or if you have not received the communications and require more information, please contact us by email: BC_MSIBusinessAnalysts@medavie.ca

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

UPDATED FILES

Updated files reflecting changes are available for download on Friday November 22, 2024. The files to download are:
Health Service (SERVICES.DAT), Health Service Description (SERV_DSC.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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2025 CUT-OFF DATES FOR RECEIPT OF PAPER AND ELECTRONIC CLAIMS

| PAPER CLAIMS | ELECTRONIC CLAIMS | PAYMENT DATE | CONTRACT PAY PERIOD |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| December 24, 2024** | January 2, 2025 | January 8, 2025 | December 20, 2024-January 2, 2025 |
| January 13, 2025 | January 16, 2025 | January 22, 2025 | January 3-16, 2025 |
| January 27, 2025 | January 30, 2025 | February 5, 2025 | January 17-30, 2025 |
| February 7, 2025** | February 12, 2025** | February 19, 2025 | January 31-February 13, 2025 |
| February 24, 2025 | February 27, 2025 | March 5, 2025 | February 14-27, 2025 |
| March 10, 2025 | March 13, 2025 | March 19, 2025 | February 28-March 13, 2025 |
| March 24, 2025 | March 27, 2025 | April 2, 2025 | March 14-27, 2025 |
| April 7, 2025 | April 10, 2025 | April 16, 2025 | March 28-April 10, 2025 |
| April 21, 2025 | April 24, 2025 | April 30, 2025 | April 11-24, 2025 |
| May 5, 2025 | May 8, 2025 | May 14, 2025 | April 25-May 8, 2025 |
| May 16, 2025** | May 22, 2025 | May 28, 2025 | May 9-22, 2025 |
| June 2, 2025 | June 5, 2025 | June 11, 2025 | May 23-June 5, 2025 |
| June 16, 2025 | June 19, 2025 | June 25, 2025 | June 6-19, 2025 |
| June 27, 2025** | July 3, 2025 | July 9, 2025 | June 20-July 3, 2025 |
| July 14, 2025 | July 17, 2025 | July 23, 2025 | July 4-17, 2025 |
| July 25, 2025** | July 30, 2025** | August 6, 2025 | July 18-31, 2025 |
| August 11, 2025 | August 14, 2025 | August 20, 2025 | August 1-14, 2025 |
| August 22, 2025** | August 27, 2025** | September 3, 2025 | August 15-28, 2025 |
| September 8, 2025 | September 11, 2025 | September 17, 2025 | August 29-September 11, 2025 |
| September 19, 2025** | September 24, 2025** | October 1, 2025 | September 12-25, 2025 |
| October 3, 2025** | October 8, 2025** | October 15, 2025 | September 26-October 9, 2025 |
| October 20, 2025 | October 23, 2025 | October 29, 2025 | October 10-23, 2025 |
| October 31, 2025** | November 5, 2025** | November 12, 2025 | October 24-November 6, 2025 |
| November 17, 2025 | November 20, 2025 | November 26, 2025 | November 7-20, 2025 |
| December 1, 2025 | December 4, 2025 | December 10, 2025 | November 21-December 4, 2025 |
| December 15, 2025 | December 18, 2025 | December 24, 2025 | December 5-18, 2025 |
| December 24, 2025** | January 1, 2026 | January 7, 2026 | December 19, 2025-January 1, 2026 |
| 11:00 AM CUT OFF | 11:59 PM CUT OFF | | |

NOTE:

Though we will strive to achieve these goals, it may not always be possible due to unforeseen system issues. It is advisable not to leave these submissions to the last day.

Each electronically submitted service encounter must be received, processed and accepted by 11:59 p.m. on the cut-off date to ensure processing for that payment period.

Paper Claims include: Psychiatric Activity Reports, Rural Providers' Emergency on Call Activity Reports, Sessional Payments and Locum Claim Forms. Manual submissions must be received in the Assessment Department by 11:00 a.m. on the cut off date to ensure processing for that payment period.

PLEASE NOTE, THE ** INDICATES A DATE VARIATION

Please make a note in your schedule of the following dates MSI will accept as “Holidays”.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| NEW YEAR'S DAY | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 2025 |
| HERITAGE DAY | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 |
| GOOD FRIDAY | FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025 |
| EASTER MONDAY | MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025 |
| VICTORIA DAY | MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025 |
| CANADA DAY | TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025 |
| CIVIC HOLIDAY | MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 |
| LABOUR DAY | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 |
| NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 |
| THANKSGIVING DAY | MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025 |
| REMEMBRANCE DAY | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 |
| CHRISTMAS DAY | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025 |
| BOXING DAY | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025 |
| NEW YEAR'S DAY | THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026 |