

UPDATE

5% PRECEPTOR PREMIUM

As announced in the 2023-2027 Physician Agreement, effective September 15, 2023, a Supervising Physician who holds an academic appointment with Dalhousie Medical School and is an approved preceptor by Dalhousie Medical School to supervise a Medical Trainee will be paid a premium of 5 percent on all Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance (MSI) claims for insured services provided by the Supervising Physician when a Medical Trainee is present in person and working with the Supervising Physician.

A Medical Trainee is defined as the following:

- a) Undergraduate medical students registered with Dalhousie Medical School
- b) Residents in an accredited postgraduate specialty or subspecialty training program registered with Dalhousie Medical School
- c) Practice ready assessees participating in the remaining cohorts of the Practice Ready Assessment Program (PRAP)
- d) Other practice ready assessees not part of the Physician Assessment Centre of Excellence (PACE)

A Medical Trainee does not include:

- a) Clinical observers
- b) Clinical fellows
- c) PACE assessees
- d) Physician extenders, such as physician assistants or associate physicians, and their learners
- e) Other healthcare providers, and their learners

Physicians who are employees or paid through other arrangements not governed by the Physician Agreement, or who are compensated through a Clinical/Academic Funding Plan (C/AFP), are not eligible for the 5% Preceptor Premium.

Beginning **February 15, 2025**, Supervising Physicians must begin claiming the 5% Preceptor Premium on eligible claims to receive the premium payment. These claims must be identified by selecting the appropriate new compensation variable field in the vendor's software. Please contact your vendor for assistance with this new field. If eligible claims are submitted without the appropriate field selection on and after February 15, 2025, the claims will need to be deleted and resubmitted to be appropriately captured and paid. All standard billing rules apply, including the 90-day billing window.

Fee for Service (FFS) and Alternate Payment Plan (APP) Supervising Physicians will receive the 5% Preceptor Premium on all eligible claims in the usual billing cycle; as part of the normal bi-weekly payment deposit, the 5% Preceptor Premium will appear as a separate payment on the detailed statement for any eligible claims where the 5% Preceptor Premium field was selected.

When a Longitudinal Family Medicine (LFM) Supervising Physician submits an eligible claim under their LFM 30% business arrangement (BA) with the 5% Preceptor Premium, the bi-weekly payment deposit will contain payment for the 30% LFM BA as well as any eligible claims where the 5% Preceptor Premium field was selected. For clarity, LFM Supervising Physicians will receive a total payment of 35% of eligible claims, and the 5% preceptor premium will appear as a separate payment on the detailed statement.

Electronic statements are available for download via the vendor software that identifies all claims submitted during the payment period per BA and will identify the claims submitted with the 5% Preceptor Premium field adjustment.

Further information will be provided to physicians in District Psychiatry for updated claim form submission.

Note: There will be a separate process for claiming eligible encounters on or before February 14, 2025. Eligible encounters provided between September 15, 2023 and February 14, 2025 inclusive will be processed through a retroactive application process. Further detail will be provided in the upcoming weeks on this retroactive payment for eligible claims between September 15, 2023, and February 14, 2025.

For more information, please see the [FAQ](#).

PHYSICIAN'S MANUAL PREAMBLE UPDATE

Clinical Supervision (5.2.5) in Section 5 of the Physician's Manual has been replaced with the following:

CLINICAL SUPERVISION (5.2.5)

1. ELIGIBLE CLAIMS:

- a. A physician who supervises a Medical Trainee who renders an insured service is eligible to submit a claim for the insured service as if the physician had performed the insured service personally, subject to any terms, conditions and limitations found in this Clinical Supervision section.
- b. The terms, conditions and limitations described in this Clinical Supervision section are for the sole purpose of defining when an insured service is payable by Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance (MSI). These terms and conditions do not alter the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia professional standards and guidelines, or any requirements of Dalhousie Medical School providing the undergraduate or postgraduate medical education.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- a. **Supervision:** is performed by the Supervising Physician and includes the responsibility to guide, observe and assess the clinical activities of the Medical Trainee and assures the quality of an insured service while being rendered by the Medical Trainee.
 - i. Supervision of the Medical Trainee may occur in person, by telephone or PHIA compliant virtual care video platform, provided that the Supervising Physician and the Medical Trainee are physically present in the same clinical facility at the time the insured service is rendered.
 - ii. Supervision is provided in a setting approved by Dalhousie Medical School.
 - iii. The Supervising Physician and the Medical Trainee must be physically present in Nova Scotia.
- b. **Supervising Physician:** is a physician who performs Supervision of a Medical Trainee who renders an insured service to an insured person. The Supervising Physician must hold an academic appointment with Dalhousie Medical School and be an approved preceptor with Dalhousie Medical School. The Supervising Physician shall be present at the performance of such insured services or shall be immediately available to render assistance when necessary. The Supervising Physician may or may not be the Most Responsible Physician (MRP) for the patient to whom the insured service is being provided.
- c. **Medical Trainee:**
 - i. A Medical Trainee is defined as the following:
 1. Undergraduate medical students registered with Dalhousie Medical School;
 2. Residents in an accredited postgraduate specialty or subspecialty training program through Dalhousie Medical School;
 3. Practice ready assessees participating in the remaining cohorts of the Practice Ready Assessment Program (PRAP);

4. Other practice ready assesses not part of the Physician Assessment Centre of Excellence (PACE).

ii. A Medical Trainee does not include:

1. Clinical observers
2. Clinical fellows
3. PACE assesses
4. Physician extenders such as physician assistants or associate physicians, and their learners
5. Other healthcare providers, and their learners

3. **BILLING GUIDELINES:**

- a. An insured service rendered by a Medical Trainee is only eligible for payment to the Supervising Physician where Supervision is provided as defined in the other areas of this Clinical Supervision section.
- b. Where a Medical Trainee with an MSI provider number is providing insured services independently and outside their training program, the insured service is not eligible for payment to a Supervising Physician as there is no supervision provided.
- c. Provider to provider insured services are not eligible for payment to the Supervising Physician when rendered by a Medical Trainee (e.g., 03.09K, 03.09L, etc.).

4. **INSURED SERVICES:**

- a. An insured service rendered by a Medical Trainee is only eligible for payment to the Supervising Physician when the Supervising Physician:
 - i. Is aware the Medical Trainee will render the insured service; and
 - ii. Is physically present in the same clinical facility as the Medical Trainee at the time the insured service is rendered; and
 - iii. Is immediately available to personally respond to the patient when requested by the patient, the Medical Trainee or other healthcare professionals.
- b. An insured service that includes the completion of a form is not eligible for payment to a Supervising Physician if rendered by a Medical Trainee unless the form has been reviewed and signed by the Supervising Physician.
- c. When there is more than one Medical Trainee participating in the rendering of an insured service, only the insured service (and time units or multiples, if applicable) rendered by one Medical Trainee are eligible for payment to the Supervising Physician.
- d. Any time taken in general medical education with the Medical Trainee about the case, but not specific to the insured service, *is not eligible* for payment in this Clinical Supervision section.
- e. As a reminder, as per the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA), patients must be informed about the involvement of Medical Trainees in their care.

5. **DOCUMENTATION:**

- a. Supervision of the Medical Trainee by the Supervising Physician must be evident in the patient's medical record. This may include a physical visit to the patient and/or a chart review with detailed discussion between the Supervising Physician and the Medical Trainee and other member(s) of the healthcare team (where appropriate).
- b. An insured service is only eligible for payment to the Supervising Physician when the medical record of the patient(s) identifies all the following information at the time of the provision of the insured service:
 - i. The Supervising Physician

- ii. The Medical Trainee and the level of training.
- iii. The description of the insured service performed by the Medical Trainee.
- c. The Supervising Physician must have signed off on the insured service rendered by the Medical Trainee in the patient's medical record.
- d. The service date used for claims is the date the Medical Trainee rendered the insured service to the patient.

PHYSICIAN RETIREMENT FUND REMINDER

The newly established Physician Retirement Fund by the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) was launched this past December. All eligible physicians should have received an email with their specific eligibility.

To provide flexibility and to maximize a physician's opportunity to participate, DHW has extended the contribution deadline for the 2024 Physician Retirement Fund to align with the opt-in deadline. If applicable, physicians must contribute to their chosen retirement vehicle by March 31, 2025, and must opt into the program by completing and submitting the following online attestation form by March 31, 2025:

[CLICK HERE TO OPT IN](#)

If the individual email was not received, or if there are any questions or concerns, please email psaccountability@novascotia.ca. For more information about this program, please visit the [MSI website](#) for a Frequently Asked Questions document in the [December 13, 2024](#) Physician's Bulletin.

NEW EXPLANATORY CODES

Code	Description
ED126	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS THE COMPENSATION VARIABLE MUST BE A TWO DIGIT NUMERICAL VALUE.
ED127	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS THE COMPENSATION VARIABLE USED IS INVALID.
ED128	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS COMPENSATION VARIABLE MAY NOT BE CLAIMED FOR PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY USED.
ED129	SERVICE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN REFUSED AS A COMPENSATION VARIABLE MAY NOT BE USED FOR PROVIDER TYPE USED.

NOTICE TO VENDORS

A new Vendor's Manual has been published on the [MSI Website](#). table 5.2.3 Provider Total Records has been updated to support the new 5% premium.