

Billing Information Sheet

Payment Integrity (Audit)

Overview:

It is essential that there is a fair and effective audit process in place to ensure accountability in the expenditure of public funds. This aligns with the government's mandate to continue to implement patient first approaches in the provision of health coverage while balancing our commitment and accountability to a publicly funded and administered healthcare system.

The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act and *The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Beneficiary and Administration Regulations* provide the legislative authority for public funding of physician services.

MSB has the legislative authority to review any accounts paid directly to a physician by MSB to ensure compliance with a physician's direct payment agreement with MSB, *The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act*, and the Physician Payment Schedule.

After payment, MSB may undertake further investigation of a physician's claims to identify any inappropriate or incorrect payments to:

- ✓ minimize loss and ensure government accountability to a publically funded system;
- ✓ provide education and ensure physician compliance with Ministry policy and regulations;
- ✓ deter and prevent any future inappropriate, incorrect or noncompliant billings; and
- ✓ recover any inappropriately or incorrectly paid services

Audit process:

If a claim has been recovered under a "**Routine Audit and Recovery**" explanatory code (all "R" section explanatory codes in the Physician Payment Schedule), a copy of a pertinent medical record or other appropriate documentation to support the billing is required.

Other audit methods:

- Referrals to the Joint Medical Professional Review Committee (legislated physician peer-review committee);
- Routine patient verifications; and
- Special patient verifications.

Inquiries:

- All audit inquiries can be directed to the Policy, Governance and Audit Unit at Medical Services Branch: (306) 787-0496 or MSBPaymentsandAudit@health.gov.sk.ca
- Supplementary information specific to the audit process and related audit forms can be found on our website at the following link: <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/resources/establish-operate-practice/Pages/Physicians.aspx>