

Billing Information Sheet

Physician Billing Obligations

Overview:

Where physicians are making decisions that involve the disposition of public funds, it is important that they are aware of their **professional, legal and ethical responsibility** to submit billings in an honest and forthright manner to a system which operates almost entirely on the honor system.

Physicians are essential stakeholders of publically-funded health care expenditures and must jointly assume accountability and responsibility. Physicians who are receiving direct payment through the publically-funded system have signed a Direct Payment Agreement with Medical Services Branch. **Direct payment agreements are considered a privilege.** This agreement stipulates the manner in which services must be submitted for payment and all physicians should be aware of their **billing obligations**.

Physicians are **personally and solely responsible** for all billings submitted to MSB under their billing number regardless of who submits the billings.

Medically Required Services:

Pursuant to The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act, MSB has the authority to pay physicians for **medically required** services only. All services submitted for payment must also be billed in accordance with the Physician Payment Schedule (without substitution) and must be documented in accordance with the policy outlined in the “Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing” section of the Schedule.

In summary, **accountability** relies on both the physician and the Ministry of Health to **safeguard public resources** to ensure that health care dollars are being spent in a responsible manner and that payments made to physicians are appropriate and align with the regulations and policies established in The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act, the Physician Payment Schedule, and the Direct Payment Agreement.

The Ministry of Health greatly appreciates physicians’ ongoing efforts and cooperation in ensuring that the services they submit to the Ministry for payment meet the requirements as outlined above.

Important Resources:

- Physician Payment Schedule
- Physician’s Newsletter
- MSB Operations Bulletin
- MSB Billing Bulletin

Billing resources can be found at this link:

<https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/resources/establish-operate-practice/Pages/Physicians.aspx>

For more information:

- General billing inquiries: 306-787-3454 (Claims Analysis Unit)
- Audit inquiries: 306-787-0496 or MSBPaymentsandAudit@health.gov.sk.ca (Policy, Governance and Audit)