

To: All Members of the Section on Nephrology
From: OMA President Dr. Sohail Gandhi

I wanted to reach out to you personally and provide important information about recommended fee schedule changes specific to Nephrology that will be in effect on April 1, 2020. This is a long email (apologies) but it does deal with finances, and how decisions were made.

I want to (briefly) recap the process that has led to the decisions on fee code changes. As you are all aware, for the first time in the history of Ontario, physicians were given an Arbitrated Award for a Physician Services Agreement (PSA). This is why there was no ratification vote. The Award is binding both on the OMA and the Ministry of Health (MOH).

As part of that process, the Arbitrator agreed that we must deal with the issues of relativity. The official OMA model for relativity is CANDI (the FAIR model you may have heard about is not final, it is in development). The government refused to accept CANDI. The official MOH model for relativity is RAANI. The OMA feels that there are serious, significant and unresolvable issues with RAANI, and we refused to accept it. The Arbitrator (acting in this case as a mediator), worked with both sides, and came up with the Hybrid model, and the Hybrid model will be used for all 4 years of the current PSA. *Please note, it has yet to be decided what relativity model will be used in the next PSA (2021-2025).*

This Hybrid model is not perfect. It does not address the fact that some services are provided by members in multiple Sections. If those fees go up, then the allocation to that Section will rise automatically. The hybrid model allows for the Section on Nephrology to get a 1.4% normative increase to its fees.

In order to come up with fairest way of making changes, we tasked the Medical Services Payment Committee (MSPC) with the enormous responsibility of doing this for every Section. The timelines were tight as the MOH insisted they had to have a decision by December 18, 2019, in order to program their computers for April 1, 2020. I ask that you keep in mind that MSPC is a bilateral committee — half OMA and half MOH. For a decision to be made, both sides have to agree. If they don't agree, then we go to arbitration on those issues. By now, I believe all members are keenly aware of just how long arbitration takes.

In July, the MSPC sent letters to all Section executives outlining this process. In August, the MSPC surveyed members of each Section to see what fee codes were in need of change. On September 20, the Section executives were sent the survey results, and asked to provide input by October 14 (as mentioned the timelines were tight). This was to allow the OMA staff to model the effect of proposed changes on the members. It also allowed time for the MSPC to contact Sections as needed, to clarify their submissions. Our goal was to ensure that the fewest possible members had a negative impact.

The majority of Section executives, including the Section Executive for Nephrology, provided feedback to the MSPC, which helped inform the MPSC recommendations. I thank the Section Executive for the work they did on this issue.

The MSPC went through multiple modeling exercises and came up with the best possible recommendations they could for Nephrology. The final recommendations indicate that with these changes, in the Section on Nephrology:

- 180 physicians will see an increase in their income (average of \$5,998, representing 1.19% of their billing).

The specific changes recommended by MSPC for your Section are provided below and also posted online [here](#). Recommendations for all OMA Sections and Medical Interest Groups, along with background documents related to the MSPC, are available on the OMA website [here](#).

As with all fee schedule changes, the MSPC recommendations will be submitted to Cabinet for final approval.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact mssc@oma.org.

Ontario's Doctors Rock!

Sohail Gandhi
OMA President

Section on Nephrology

April 1, 2020 Recommended OHIP Schedule of Benefits Fee Changes

Highlighted Fee Changes

Consultation & Assessment Fee Increases

Fee Code	Description	Current Fee Value	New Fee Value	Percent Increase
A/C/W165	Consultation	\$157.00	\$162.90	3.76%
A/C163	Medical specific assessment	\$79.85	\$80.95	1.38%
A/C164	Medical specific re-assessment	\$61.25	\$62.10	1.39%
A/C161	Complex medical specific re-assessment	\$70.90	\$71.85	1.34%
A168	Partial assessment	\$38.05	\$38.55	1.31%

Hospital In-Patient Subsequent Visit Fee Increases

Fee Code	Description	Current Fee Value	New Fee Value	Percent Increase
C162	Nephrology - subsequent visits - up to five weeks - per visit	\$31.00	\$33.95	9.52%
C167	Nephrology - subsequent visits - 6th-13th wks inclusive (max. of 3/wk) - per visit	\$31.00	\$33.95	9.52%
C169	Nephrology - subsequent visits - after 13th week (max. of 6/mth) - per visit	\$31.00	\$33.95	9.52%
C122	Subsequent visits by the MRP – day following hospital admission assessment	\$58.80	\$61.15	4.00%
C123	Subsequent visits by the MRP – second day following hospital admission assessment	\$58.80	\$61.15	4.00%
C124	Subsequent visits by the MRP – day of discharge	\$58.80	\$61.15	4.00%
C142	Subsequent visits by the MRP following transfer from an ICU – first visit	\$58.80	\$61.15	4.00%
C143	Subsequent visits by the MRP following transfer from an ICU – second visit	\$58.80	\$61.15	4.00%

Renal Transplant Fee Increases

Fee Code	Description	Current Fee Value	New Fee Value	Percent Increase
G412	Nephrological component of renal transplantation - 1st day following transplantation	\$242.90	\$279.35	15.01%
G408	Nephrological component of renal transplantation - 2nd to 10th day, inclusive per diem	\$121.45	\$139.65	14.99%
G409	Nephrological component of renal transplantation -11th to 21st day, inclusive per diem	\$60.70	\$69.80	14.99%

New Post renal transplant assessment premium, add 25%

Post renal transplant assessment premium is payable in addition to the amount payable for an assessment when all of the following criteria are met:

- a) The assessment is a
 - i medical specific assessment;
 - ii medical specific re-assessment;
 - iii complex medical specific re-assessment; or
 - iv partial assessment;
- b) The service is rendered by a physician registered with OHIP as having a specialty designation of Nephrology (16).
- c) The assessment is rendered in an office setting or an out-patient clinic located in a hospital, other than an emergency department.
- d) The purpose of the assessment is the patient's transplant related management.
- e) The patient is within the first three years of having received their renal transplant.

[Commentary: The Post renal transplant assessment premium is not payable for assessments rendered to inpatients of any hospital, patients seen in a long-term care facility or patients seen in an emergency department.]

New Premium for Weekend and Holiday Subsequent Visits to Hospital Inpatients by the MRP, add 45%

When subsequent visits are provided on weekends and holidays by the MRP, the physician is eligible to claim Exxx for a 45% premium; This premium is to act as a substitute to using the current MRP premium E083 (30% premium).

The physician must be registered with OHIP as having one of the following designations:

00(Family Practice and Practice in General), 02(Dermatology), 07(Geriatrics), 12(Emergency Medicine), 13(Internal Medicine), 15(Endocrinology & Metabolism), 16(Nephrology), 18(Neurology), 19(Psychiatry), 22(Genetics), 26(Paediatrics), 28(Pathology), 31(Physical Medicine), 34(Therapeutic Radiology), 41 (Gastroenterology), 44(Medical Oncology), 46(Infectious Disease), 47(Respiratory Disease), 48(Rheumatology), 60 (Cardiology), 61(Haematology), 62(Clinical Immunology).

Other Fee Changes of Interest

- **Various GP/FP Time Based K-code fee increases** – to be increased between 8% and 25%.
- **G557/G558/G559 - ICU Comprehensive Care per diem fees** – to be increased between 4.68% and 32.40%.

Note: These codes represent fee codes most commonly billed by your Section. A comprehensive list of ALL recommended fee code changes is available on the OMA website [here](#).

Notes:

1. The Schedule of Benefits changes listed above are recommended by the bilateral OMA-MOH Medical Services Payment Committee — Cabinet approval is pending.
2. Best efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this document. In the event of any errors, the Schedule of Benefits to be published April 1, 2020 is the definitive source. Further details about the Schedule will be available on the Ministry of Health OHIP Bulletins webpage [here](#).
3. This update was sent to you based on your primary affiliation with an OMA Section. Fee code recommendations for all OMA Sections and Medical Interest Groups are available on the OMA website [here](#).

Questions? Please email mspc@oma.org