

Ministry of Health

Assistant Deputy Minister
Ontario Health Insurance Plan
Division

1075 Bay Street, 6th Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tel.: 416-327-8929

Ministère de la Santé

Sous-ministre adjointe
Division du Régime d'Assurance-
santé de l'Ontario

1075 Rue Bay, 6^{ème} étage
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tél.: 416-327-8929



73-2021-2865

DATE: July 30, 2021

TO: Ontario Hospitals and Ontario Health

FROM: Patrick Dicherni
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Division

SUBJECT: **Extension of Temporary Physician Funding for Hospitals During COVID-19 and Physician Virtual Care (“K-codes”)**

In March 2020, the Ministry of Health (the “ministry”) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) agreed to introduce temporary physician funding for hospitals in anticipation of high volumes of COVID-19 patients. This funding provides flexibility to hospitals to increase physician coverage by incorporating physicians from the community into the hospital and enabling redeployment of physicians within the hospital to where care is most needed.

As per the memo dated April 17, 2021, this funding was set to expire September 30, 2021 with the Residents component set to expire on June 30, 2021.

To ensure essential physician services in hospitals throughout the pandemic recovery, the ministry and the OMA have agreed to temporarily extend all components of COVID-19 hospital physician funding as outlined below until September 30, 2022.

Funding allocations pertaining to the original extension to September 30, 2021 will be communicated shortly. Funding allocations pertaining to the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 will be communicated separately, at a later date.

This funding is being extended under the same criteria as previously outlined in the Guidelines for Temporary Hospital Physician Funding (Guidelines). The funding extension also includes the expanded list of eligible aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) and the option for hospitals to have physicians receive a 30% modifier payment on three Critical Care fee codes in lieu of hourly funding for Protected or Pre-Emptive Code Blue Teams.

The following Temporary Hospital Physician Funding components continue to be available:

Funding Component	Description	Expiry Date
a) Emergency Department Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised temporary agreement on Emergency Department Alternative Funding Agreements (EDAFAs) 	September 30, 2022
b) Intensive Care Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$385 per hour 7am to midnight • \$450 per hour from midnight to 7am 	September 30, 2022
c) Inpatient Ward Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 per hour from 7am to midnight • \$300 per hour from midnight to 7am 	September 30, 2022
d) Protected or Pre-Emptive Code Blue Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$275 per hour from 7 am to midnight • \$325 per hour from midnight to 7 am • With the alternative option for hospitals to have physicians receive a 30% modifier payment on three Critical Care fee codes (G521, G522, G523) in lieu of hourly funding 	September 30, 2022
e) Non-Clinical Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$165 per hour • As approved by hospital CEO or delegate • Also applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Education and training in relation hospital planning for the care of COVID-19 patients o Physicians deployed by hospitals to conduct non-clinical work related to COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Homes and Congregate Care Settings 	September 30, 2022
f) Infectious Disease Hospital Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid on the basis of 1.0 FTE equivalent per hospital, where the hospital has an existing hospital-based infectious disease specialist who is not already at 1.0 FTE equivalent 	September 30, 2022
g) Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$125 per hour • For residents with College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario restricted registration certificates when working outside of their residency training programs 	September 30, 2022
h) Modifier Payment for AGMPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% modifier payments for eligible AGMPs performed to patients who are COVID-19 positive or who are treated as at risk of being COVID-19 positive under local hospital policy. 	September 30, 2022

Additionally, please note that where the criteria for activating the above components have not been met or are no longer being met, physicians (including community-based physicians, and both redeployed and non-redeployed physicians) may be eligible to be remunerated on a Fee For Service basis, or through Alternative Payment Plan models in place for some hospitals.

Please be advised that the ministry and the OMA have also agreed to extend the temporary virtual care fee codes (“K-codes”) for physician telephone and video services and the new temporary virtual palliative care fee codes under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) to September 30, 2022. Physicians will be receiving a Ministry INFOBulletin in the near future with further details on this.

Should you require any further information, please contact Ontario Health or the ministry’s Health Services Branch at HealthServicesBranch@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dicerni
Assistant Deputy Minister

c: Ontario Medical Association
Ontario Hospital Association
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Mel Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Enclosures:

- Temporary Hospital Physician Funding Guidelines dated April 22, 2020

Further Information Sources:

- Information regarding temporary COVID-19 physician compensation has been previously communicated via memos on the dates listed below:
 - November 25, 2020
 - February 24, 2021
 - April 9, 2021
 - April 17, 2021