

Re: Request for Adjustment of physician's remuneration rates to reflect increases in Schedule of Benefits payments.

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), we are writing to request that you renumerate physicians at the same rate as OHIP when providing medical services to international students.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and the OMA have recently changed the way in which fee increases have been applied. In January 2025 a temporary 13% increase was applied to all fee codes in the MOH Schedule of Benefits. Effective April 1, 2025 that temporary Schedule change was replaced with an adjusted lump-sum increase to all physicians. The MOH communicated this information here: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ohip-infobulletins-2025/bulletin-250401-updates-fee-schedule-master>

The new increase effective April 1, 2025 is a 9.96% global increase to all fee-codes, with Family Medicine increases between 11.7% and 13%. Further details can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ohip-infobulletins-2025/bulletin-250406-relativity-adjusted-physician-payment-increases>.

We anticipate this increase to continue for the next 12 months while the MOH and OMA apply these increases to the fee code in the Schedule of Benefits on a permanent basis.

We offer two solutions to rectify payment discrepancies:

- 1) Honour the higher relativity rate submitted by physicians; or
- 2) Adjust all payments made to Ontario physicians providing the respective services by 12.75% which is the increased value of fee codes that physicians working in Student Health Centres will receive from OHIP.

When physicians are reimbursed at below-market rates for treating international students, it creates barriers to access and threatens the sustainability of care for this vulnerable population.

We urge your organization to implement reimbursement policies for international student care that reflect current physician payment rates as agreed to by the MOH and OMA. Honouring the relatively adjustment is consistent with the norms of the province.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can collaboratively address this issue and work toward a more equitable system for all patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Moran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kimberly Moran
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Medical Association