

TEAM WHSCC/NLMA WORK

Newsletter, December 2003

Commission Upgrades Physician Payment System

Retroactive Payment

The Commission and NLMA identified physician payment as a concern for most physicians. The Commission has listened to physicians and has now rectified the issue of slow payment. Since September, the Commission has enhanced its system to ensure faster payment to physicians.

By now, physicians may have received one or both of the MCP retroactive payments from the Commission.



Welcome

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) and the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (the Commission). This is a joint effort to keep physicians informed about issues pertaining to the medical management of injured workers, the NLMA and the Commission agreed to prepare this publication.

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Retroactive MCP payments were made on November 28 and December 15. The November retroactive payment included the first MCP increases that came into effect October 1, 2002. The December retroactive payment included the MCP increase which came into effect October 1, 2003.

The new payment process ensures that future MCP increases will be processed overnight and allows the Commission to revise the MCP fee codes that come into effect January 1, 2004.

Autopay

The Commission has introduced a new feature in its physician payment process which allows automatic payment for certain MCP fee codes and reporting fees. Physicians who consistently provide legible, complete and timely reports, and who respond to Commission staff will receive autopay. The Commission is pleased to report that the majority of physicians qualify for autopay.

Reminders

Form 92

The Commission's form 92 has been revised. This form is used by physicians who perform MCP diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical procedures (codes 54000 and higher). It has been revised to allow for more complete billing information. The revised form was effective November 17, 2003.

TO AVOID PAYMENT DELAYS

- ALL diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical codes (54000 and higher) MUST be billed using form 92. If the Commission receives a form

8/10 with a billing code of 54000 or higher, the form 8/10 will be returned with no payment and must be resubmitted using the form 92 for these codes. The form 92 can be used for other codes (e.g. specific assessment) when they are associated with codes 54000 and higher.

- Effective January 1, 2004, bills submitted on the old form 92 will NOT be processed and returned with no payment.

Form 8/10 Billing

- If using a form 8/10 to bill for MCP fee code, physicians MUST include the appropriate code. It's not necessary to include the fee code amount because the Commission's payment system will automatically calculate the MCP fee code plus the 20% Commission premium.
- The reporting fee amount MUST be entered on the form 8/10 or the Commission will not be able to pay a reporting fee.

Reconciliation of accounts

Physicians are reminded that they should review their accounts before calling the Commission regarding invoices that have been submitted but have not been paid. The Commission can confirm whether or not an invoice has been paid, but will no longer reconcile accounts for physicians.



(over)



Happy Holidays



Liaison Committee

The liaison committee consists of members from the Commission and the NLMA.

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CME Event

The CME event that took place at the Commission's office on Forest Road in November was well attended and was described as a tremendous success by those who attended.

Many felt it was a worthwhile conference and would like to see a future session dealing with chronic pain. Participants also came to a better understanding about the need to fully complete the work capability section on the form 8/10.

The next CME event is planned for the fall 2004.

Make sure you visit the regularly updated Commission link located in the members' only section on the NLMA web site: www.nlma.nf.ca/members/whscc/default.html.

WHSCC link
on NLMA
web site

The Medical Aid Department of the Commission is currently meeting its target of 30 days for payment of all health care providers. Any physicians experiencing delays in payment should contact Josie Healey, Manager of Support Services, 778-2904, email: jhealey@whscc.nf.ca.

Promptness
of
Payment

Physician Agreement for Provision of Medical Services

The Commission and NLMA have agreed to begin discussion on the physician agreement for provision of medical services starting in January, 2004 as the current agreement ends March 31, 2004.

MOAs

The Commission recently signed Memorandums of Agreement with chiropractors and occupational rehabilitation providers effective December 1, 2003. New and revised policies and procedures related to these groups also came into effect December 1 and are posted on the Commission's web site at www.whscc.nf.ca.



F E E D B A C K



The liaison committee welcomes any comments or suggestions from physicians on any topic presented in this issue and upcoming issues. To pass along your comments or feedback, contact any member of the liaison committee.