

COVID-19 Advance Payment Program: An Overview and Update

Revised: May 28, 2020





COVID-19 Advance Payment Program

- Physicians will receive payments in May, June and July 2020
 - Each physician must personally opt-out of the Program
- Payments flow automatically unless physicians opt out
 - No longer possible to opt out of May and June payments
- Physicians topped up to 70% of their historical monthly earnings between April 2019 and March 2020:
- No interest will be applied to the automated advance payments

COVID-19 Advance Payment Program



- The May Advance Payment was calculated incorrectly for SEAMO-funded physicians. The MOH used the claim value not the payment physicians actually received, which resulted in a significant overpayment for some physicians

Components	Claim Value (100 cents on the \$1)	Payment Value (37.5 cents on the \$1)
Historical monthly earnings	\$25,000	\$7,500
Guaranteed advance (70%)	\$17,500	\$5,250
OHIP billings	\$5,000	\$1,875
COVID-19 advance	\$12,500	\$3,375

- The MOH has corrected this error and the June and July Advance Payments will be calculated using the actual payments received

COVID-19 Advance Payment Program



- Funds will be deposited into the bank account associated with the physician's OHIP profile (likely their personal account)
- Payments will appear on the physician's solo (0000) monthly Remittance Advice labelled EMERG ADVANCE PAYMENT (COVID19)
- The first payment was deposited on May 15th, 2020

COVID-19 Advance Payment Program



- The advance will be repaid in five (5) equal installments from November 2020 until March 2021
- The repayments will be taken automatically from the physician's fee-for-service (FFS) earnings
- As most SEAMO-funded physicians have nominal FFS earnings, we anticipate there will be insufficient funds to cover the cost of most repayments. SEAMO has been advised by the MOH, the government will reach out to physicians to discuss repayment arrangements in these circumstances



Issues regarding May Payment

I expected a payment but didn't receive on in my personal bank account

- Please check with the MOH Service Support Contact Centre. Either the banking information on file is outdated or there is no banking information on file for you.

I received a payment but wasn't expecting an advance

- The COVID-19 Advance Payment only appears on a physician's solo (0000) Remittance Advice (RA). SEAMO assumed, incorrectly, that we had access to solo RA information for all SEAMO-funded physicians.
- Please check your solo RA to confirm the amount of the deposit

The bank deposit differs from the Advance Payment information I received

- Physicians received a single deposit from the MOH in their bank account on May14th. This could have included for other services (i.e. FFS billings, out-of-province claims, WSIB payments, etc.)
- Please refer to solo (0000) RA for details regarding the deposit



Opt Out Instructions

- While it's too late to opt out of the May and June 2020 Advance Payment, physicians can still opt out of the July payment by contacting the MOH Service Support Contact Centre:
 - By phone - 1-800-262-6524
 - By email - SSContactCentre.MOH@ontario.ca (preferred approach)
- Physicians can return their payment(s) to the MOH:
 - Make cheques payable to the Minister of Finance
 - Submit cheque(s) to Financial Management Branch, 49 Place d'Armes, 3rd Floor Kingston, ON K7L5J3
 - Include cover letter with the following information:
 - Full Name
 - OHIP Billing Number
 - Indicate cheque is for repayment of COVID-19 Advance Payment Program
 - Specify the month
 - **Funds must be returned by August 31, 2020 to avoid November – March repayment**

IMPORTANT: Check with your Department



- Each Practice Plan is considering how they are going to manage COVID-19 Advance Payments
- Please seek direction from your Department regarding the management of these funds
- If you have other questions, please contact SEAMO for support. We are here to help. The best way to reach us at the moment is through email at seamo@queensu.ca