

Ministry of Health

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DATE: January 15, 2021

TO: Ontario Hospitals;
Ontario Public Health Units

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

SUBJECT: Sessional Remuneration Eligibility for Physicians Rendering COVID-19
Vaccination Services Coordinated by Public Hospitals or Public Health
Units

This memorandum is issued to clarify the circumstances where physicians are eligible to claim the COVID-19 Sessional fees for COVID-19 vaccination services. The information contained within this memorandum supplants any information contained in previous communications and represents the direction of the ministry at this time. The ministry's direction may change as the vaccine roll-out progresses and up-to-date information will be disseminated as required.

The Ministry of Health is currently providing remuneration for physician services rendered at **designated Assessment Centres (ACs)** through the following fee codes:

Fee Code	Fee Code Description	Fee Code Amount	Effective Date
H409	COVID-19 Sessional Unit - per one-hour period, or major part thereof	\$170.00	March 14, 2020
H410	COVID-19 Sessional Unit - per one-hour period, or major part thereof on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or Monday to Friday afterhours (5pm-7am)	\$220.00	March 21, 2020

To support the provincial vaccination strategy, the ministry is expanding the criteria used to designate COVID-19 Assessment Centres to include any sites where a Hospital or Public Health Unit (PHU) coordinates COVID-19 vaccination delivery. Physicians providing services at these sites will be eligible to claim the H409/H410 fee codes for each hour of service rendered.

When a physician is part of a COVID-19 vaccination team organized or deployed by either a Hospital or a PHU that has an eligible Assessment Centre, the sites at which the vaccine services are delivered will be considered eligible Assessment Centres for the duration of vaccine delivery.

Hospital Coordinated Vaccination Sites

Hospitals who have an existing COVID-19 Assessment Centre (e.g. a COVID-19 testing centre) should instruct physicians to utilize the group number of their existing Assessment Centre when submitting claims relating to services rendered at their COVID-19 vaccination sites. This group number can be obtained from the group administrator of the existing Assessment Centre.

For hospitals without an existing AC group number, please contact **HealthServicesBranch@ontario.ca** to be registered for one.

Hospitals are required to maintain a record of each vaccination site where they have deployed physicians to render services. The record must include:

- The address of the vaccination site;
- Dates and times of vaccine site operation;
- The names and scheduling details of each deployed physician.

This information must be made available to the ministry upon request. Physician service claims may be ineligible for payment unless this information is maintained and available upon request.

It is not a requirement of payment that physicians are credentialed by the coordinating hospital.

Public Health Administered Vaccination Sites

In circumstances where a Public Health Unit that has an eligible Assessment Centre establishes a COVID-19 vaccination site and coordinates the deployment of physicians to render vaccination services, the service delivery locations will be considered eligible Assessment Centres for the duration of vaccine delivery. This will enable physicians to submit H409/H410 fee codes for vaccination services delivered at these sites.

Each Public Health Unit must contact **HealthServicesBranch@ontario.ca** to be assigned a group number for billing purposes.

The Public Health Units are required to maintain a record of each vaccination site where they have deployed physicians to render services. The record must include:

- The address of the vaccination site;
- Dates and times of vaccine site operation;
- The names and scheduling details of each deployed physician.

This information must be made available to the ministry upon request. Physician service claims may be ineligible for payment unless this information is maintained and available upon request.

Additional Notes

Hospitals and Public Health Units are asked to contact **HealthServicesBranch@ontario.ca** for additional information or support.

Physicians will be receiving a ministry INFOBulletin in the near future advising them of the information contained in this memo. Physicians with questions pertaining to the submission of the H409/H410 fee codes should contact the ministry's Service Support Contact Centre (SSCC) by email at SSContactCentre.MOH@ontario.ca or by calling 1-800-262-6524.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dicerni
Interim Assistant Deputy Minister

c: Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Mike Heenan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital Division
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery
Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ronnie Gavsie, Executive Lead, Distribution, Logistics and Administration
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