



Ministry of
Health

Medical Services

3475 Albert Street
Regina, Canada
S4S 6X6

April 14, 2016

Dear Health System Organizations:

RE: Changes to the Physician Compensation Quality Improvement Program

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) recognize that physician involvement is a key factor for the success of health system transformation and have made some improvements to further enable and support physician involvement in quality improvement (QI) projects and training.

The program parameters of the Physician Compensation Quality Improvement Program (PCQIP) – a joint initiative between the Ministry of Health (Ministry) and the SMA – have been expanded to compensate physicians for eligible time they spend on approved QI projects and training.

Some notable changes to the program are as follows:

- *Expanded Parameters:* In addition to Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), QI work/training led by the following health system organizations are now eligible to apply for PCQIP funding:
 - eHealth;
 - Health Quality Council (HQC);
 - 3sHealth;
 - Saskatchewan Cancer Agency;
 - Ministry;
 - SMA; and,
 - Physician offices.

There have also been some improvements made to previous processes:

- *Application Process:* All applications pursuing funding to enable physician involvement in QI work/training will be adjudicated by the PCQIP Oversight Committee (which comprises representatives from the SMA, Ministry, and RHAs, with input and advice from a non-voting member from HQC). A new application form has been created that requires applicants to provide a succinct summary that demonstrates alignment with strategic priorities; aims to the project/training; brief description of the upcoming effort; and proposed measures that

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will demonstrate whether the ambitions have been met. Furthermore, a brief expression of the physician effort required and the amount of time needs to be included. (See attached for the new PCQIP Application Form. An electronic copy is also available online at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/resources-for-health-care-businesses-and-career-development/physician-compensation-programs#physician-compensation-quality-improvement-program>.

- *Funding Process:* Once an application has been approved, funding will be provided to the applicant's organization that will then be responsible to provide payment to the individual physicians at PCQIP rates. Half of the approved amount will be issued once a letter of agreement is signed between the Ministry and applicant; the remaining funding will be issued following the submission of an approved final report from the applicant's organization.

The Ministry and SMA will continue to provide PCQIP funding from monies that were agreed to as part of the quality and access funding within the current Ministry/SMA negotiated agreement. The compensation rates for physician participation in approved projects/training remain unchanged.

We encourage you to review the program details that are provided in the enclosed Program Information Package. If you have questions relating to the expanded program parameters or suggestions for continued improvement, please contact David Guerrero, Medical Services Branch, at 306-798-2654 or dguerrero@health.gov.sk.ca.

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Thank you again for your continued commitment to improving the health and care experience for Saskatchewan residents. There is no question that physician involvement in such efforts can only accelerate the improvements we all strive for in our collective pursuit of *Patient First*. On behalf of the entire PCQIP Oversight Committee, we look forward to receiving your applications!

Sincerely,

Shaylene Salazar
Executive Director, Medical Services
Ministry of Health

Bonnie Brossart
Chief Executive Officer
Saskatchewan Medical Association

Enclosure

cc: David Guerrero, Policy, Governance and Audit, Medical Services, Health