

Billing Information Sheet

New Temporary Fee Codes: Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist consultation or visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference

Effective March 24, 2020 – until further notice**

**All billings submitted for services delivered on or after the effective date, March 24, 2020, will be payable.

Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist consultation or visit provided via telephone or secure videoconference.

Communication between the specialist and an established patient or a new patient seeking medically required care during a pandemic (or patient's parent, guardian or proxy as established by written consent). Pandemic virtual care specialist consultation requires a formal specialist referral (which may have been made prior to pandemic). Maximum one per patient, per day. Patients cannot be charged for any aspect of a publicly-funded pandemic virtual care specialist consultation or visit service.

BILLING INFORMATION:

1. This service is billable by Saskatchewan licenced physicians providing specialist services to Saskatchewan beneficiaries. It is not billable to out-of-province residents or reciprocally by out-of-province physicians.
2. Service must be medically required and all time requirements are for direct physician-patient interaction.
3. This service cannot be delegated by the physician to a non-physician. The service must be direct physician to patient contact in real time. Time spent on indirect or administrative tasks cannot be claimed.
4. Pandemic virtual care services that are less than 7.5 minutes of direct physician-patient interaction may be claimed under 510A – Pandemic Telephone Assessment or 515A – Pandemic Video Assessment.
5. This service is payable for services performed by a medical learner under the supervision of a physician. Billings for virtual care services performed by medical learners must include the comment: "supervision of medical learner."
6. Service is not restricted to a diagnosis specific to COVID-19.
7. This fee is not payable for prescription renewals, notification of normal test results, or notification of office, referral or other appointments or other administrative tasks.
8. Pandemic Virtual Care codes cannot be billed with any other service codes. There can be no overlapping services for this fee code or any other service billed by the physician for the same patient on the same day.
9. Virtual care consultations will be assessed according to applicable assessment rules as outlined in the Payment Schedule, including, but not limited to:
 - a) This service applies where a physician, having examined the patient, formally requests the opinion and advice of another physician because of the complexity, obscurity or seriousness of the current condition or conditions involved.
 - b) The consultation includes all visits necessary, history and assessment, review of laboratory and/or other data and written submission of the consultant's opinion and recommendations to the referring physician.
 - c) A consultant may take more than one visit to make a proper diagnosis, but only one payment is made.
10. Service is not eligible for any premiums or surcharges.
11. Physicians are responsible to ensure appropriate documentation (that must include start and stop times) according to the "Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing".
12. Consultations or visits requiring physical in-person examination are not eligible for payment under Pandemic Virtual Care codes.
13. There is a maximum of one Pandemic Virtual Care code per patient, per day. If more than one virtual care service is medically necessary, physicians should submit a written report for consideration of payment to:

Medical Services Branch
3475 Albert Street, Regina SK, S4S 6X6
Fax: (306) 787-3761

Updated: April 30, 2020

14. This fee is not payable to physicians who are concurrently working under salary, service contract, APP or sessional arrangements (i.e. no duplication of payments). Physicians who are compensated by an alternate payment plan (APP), or directly by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) are permitted to “shadow bill” these services, but no payment will be eligible.
15. Secure videoconferencing must be provided on a secure platform that is compliant with *The Health Information Privacy Act*. The Saskatchewan EMR Program has released a Virtual Care Quick Start Guide to support physicians in providing virtual consultations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit <https://www.sma.sk.ca/4/emr-program.html> for more information.

TEMPORARY FEE CODES:

Pandemic virtual care specialist consultation or visit must be medically required, direct patient interaction in real-time with the billing specialist and includes:

- a) Comprehensive assessment of patient’s condition including complete history, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up;
- b) Review of laboratory and/or other data; and
- c) Written submission of the consultant’s opinion;
- d) Recommendations to the referring doctor(when patient is referred); and
- e) Advice to the patient.

All time requirements/calculations are for direct physician-patient interaction only.

Billings for virtual care services performed by medical learners must include the comment: “supervision of medical learner”.

Physicians are responsible to ensure appropriate documentation (that must include start and stop time) according to the “Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing”.

350A Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist consultation provided via telephone – first 30 minutes of direct physician-patient care or major part thereof.	\$120.00
351A Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist consultation provided via secure videoconference – first 30 minutes of direct physician-patient care or major part thereof.	\$120.00
353A Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist visit provided via telephone – first 15 minutes of direct physician-patient care or major part thereof.	\$52.00
354A Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist visit provided via secure videoconference – first 15 minutes of direct physician-patient care or major part thereof.	\$52.00
355A Pandemic Virtual Care – Specialist consultation or visit provided via telephone or secure video conference – each subsequent 15 minutes of direct physician-patient care or major part thereof, bill units (to a maximum of 2 additional units).	\$56.10

All general billing inquiries can be directed to the Claims Analysis Unit at
Medical Services Branch: (306) 787-3454