

Billing Information Sheet

New Temporary Fee Codes: Pandemic Virtual Care – Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services 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 – Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services provided via telephone or secure videoconference

Communication between the physician and an established patient or a new patient seeking medically required psychotherapy and other psychiatric services during a pandemic (or patient's parent, guardian or proxy as established by written consent). Patient may be referred or unreferred. Maximum billings of 2 hours per patient, per day. Patients cannot be charged for any aspect of a publicly-funded pandemic virtual care psychotherapy and other psychiatric services provided via telephone or secure videoconference

BILLING INFORMATION:

1. Billable by physicians with entitlement to bill 33E-39E, 100E, 101E, 110E, 111E or 163B/164B.
2. This service is billable by Saskatchewan licensed physicians providing psychotherapy and certain other psychiatric services to Saskatchewan beneficiaries. It is not billable to out-of-province residents or reciprocally by out-of-province physicians.
3. Service must be medically required and cannot be delegated by the physician to a non-physician. Service requires 15 minutes of 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 15 minutes 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. Service is not eligible for any premiums or surcharges.
10. Physicians are responsible to ensure appropriate documentation (that must include start and stop times) according to the "Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing".
11. Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services requiring physical in-person examination are not eligible for payment under Pandemic Virtual Care codes.
12. There is a maximum billings of 2 hours per patient, per day. If more time 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
13. 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.
14. 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

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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:

Billable by physicians with entitlement to bill 33E-39E, 100E, 101E, 110E, 111E or 163B/164B.

Virtual psychotherapy or psychiatric services must be a minimum of 15 minutes of medically required direct patient interaction via telephone or secure videoconference to a maximum of 8 units (2 hours) per patient, per day, and may include:

- a) Psychotherapy (as defined in the Payment Schedule), including family or group psychotherapy;
- b) Psychiatric care (as defined in the Payment Schedule);
- c) Psychiatric counselling; and,
- d) Advanced Primary Health Care for Pediatric Patients – Psychiatric Care.

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”.

356A Pandemic Virtual Care - Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services provided via telephone – first 15 minutes of direct physician-patient care.	\$56.10@
357A Pandemic Virtual Care - Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services provided via secure videoconference – first 15 minutes of direct physician-patient care.	\$56.10@
358A Pandemic Virtual Care - Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services provided via telephone or secure videoconference – each subsequent 15 minutes of direct physician-patient care or major portion thereof, bill units (to a maximum of 7 additional units per patient/per day).	\$56.10@

@Payment to General Practitioners and other physicians with entitlement to bill 33E-39E, 100E, 101E, 110E, 111E or 163B/164B.

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