

Good afternoon, Section of Family Practice:

The following email is being sent on behalf of Dr. Stan Oleksinski, President, Section of Family Practice:

"March 6, 2020

Re: 626A fee code change April 1st (Routine Nursing Home Visits)

Dear Section of Family Practice,

On behalf of the Family Practice Board, I wanted to inform you that the changes to the fee code, 626A (Routine Nursing Home Visits), were recommended to the Payment Schedule Review Committee and approved by the Minister of Health. The changes will be implemented on April 1, 2020 in the new Payment Schedule.

A brief summary of upcoming changes:

- **The 626A fee code, will be deleted and there will be two new fee codes, effective April 1, 2020.**
- The new codes will be under a heading, *Special Care Home Management (SCHM)*, and the codes do not have assigned numbers yet.
- To date, we are referring to the new codes as, XxyA Indirect Patient Care (\$24), and XxxA Direct Patient Care (\$60).
- These fee codes are billable for all non-urgent medical interventions performed during regular business hours. There will be no change to current processes when patients require medically urgent/emergent care.
- With the changes to 626A, savings were identified and the FP Board recommended to reinvest in increasing age premiums, and allocating remaining savings to 5B.

Attached are a few documents with more details, including changes to the 626A code, funds reinvested, background information on the work accomplished by the FP Working Group and FP Board, and a document on Payment Schedule Modernization (PSM).

The need to change 626A was identified several years ago, and in the last year, the FP Section focused efforts to bring it to this point. There were Section meetings where it was discussed, communications sent out, and your feedback was appreciated.

Among physicians today, there is variation in the number of times they visit Special Care Homes and it is acknowledged that this change will impact some individuals more than others. It is our hope that physicians feel valued for their work at Special Care Homes and are able to adapt their practices accordingly.

In March, the following resources will be available:

- Webinars (Online learning sessions with Q & A), to understand the new requirements,
 - Monday, March 16, 2020; 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm;
 - Wednesday, April 22, 2020; 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm;
- Frequently Asked Questions for billing the new codes; and
- Communication to Special Care Home Facilities.

We are also considering methods to gather feedback, once the changes are in place.

If you have questions about the 626A fee-code work, please contact me, dr.oleksinski@westhillmedical.com, or the Family Practice Board Chair, Carla Holinaty, carla.holinaty@usask.ca for further discussion.

Sincerely,
Dr. Stan Oleksinski
President, Section Family Practice Board

cc: Dr. Matthew Butz
Dr. Ettiene Crouse
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