



SASKATCHEWAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To: Section of Orthopedics Members
From: Dr. Elliott Pally, Chair, Section of Orthopedics
Dr. Trent Thiessen, Orthopedics Intersectional Council Representative
Dr. Shane Sheppard, Co-chair, Payment Schedule Review Committee

Date: March 19, 2020

Re: April 1, 2020 Payment Schedule Changes

We are pleased to provide you with information on upcoming changes to the *Payment Schedule* effective on April 1, 2020.

The Section of Orthopedics and the SMA staff have been working with the Medical Services Branch (MSB) on a robust review of the Section's fee codes as part of the Payment Schedule Modernization initiative, the first-ever comprehensive review of the Payment Schedule in Saskatchewan.

The Section has worked diligently for a few years to develop and recommend modernized fee code proposals for the various orthopedic subspecialties. Several of the proposed fee code changes for foot and ankle surgeries were approved by the conjoint Ministry/SMA Payment Schedule Review Committee (PSRC) in January 2020 and subsequently approved by the Minister of Health (see Table 1).

Funding the increases to the foot and ankle fee codes will come from reducing 331K (Team Spinal Surgery) from 50% of First Surgeons Claim to 45%. This proposal was agreed to by the Section of Neurosurgery.

On behalf of the Section of Orthopedics and the Payment Schedule Review Committee, we would like to thank the Section members for their time, patience and perseverance to develop these recommendations.

The Section and SMA staff will continue to work with MSB on Payment Schedule Modernization for October 1, 2020, which will include further work on foot and ankle and trauma fee codes.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Dr. Trent Thiessen or Mr. Mark Ceaser.

cc

Dr. Shayne Burwell, Chair, SMA Tariff Committee
Mr. Mark Ceaser, Director, Economics, SMA

Table 1 Orthopedic Fee Code Changes

Code	Change	Current Rate	% Change in Rate	Costs/Savings	April 1 2020 Rate
467 M Arthrodesis – triple - with tendon transplantation, add	Eliminate Code	\$305.90		No. of procedures done by Ortho in 2018-19: 6 Amounts paid to Ortho in 2018-19: \$1,835.40 Savings: \$1,835.40	
79M Excision of 4 metatarsal heads (Hoffman)	Change Descriptor: Remove "Hoffman"			n/a	
437M Ankle	Change Descriptor: Add "arthroplasty:			n/a	
456M Arthrodesis- ankle	Change price, descriptor, add inclusions	\$764.60	26.86% increase	No. of procedures done by Ortho in 2018-19: 47 Amounts paid to Ortho in 2018-19: \$38,230 Additional Costs: \$10,270.00	\$970.00
449M Total Ankle replacement	Change price	\$968.50	34.23% increase	No. of procedures done by Ortho in 2018-19: 12 Amounts paid to Ortho in 2018-19: \$12,590.50 Additional Costs: \$4,309.50	\$1300.00
379M Sesamoid bone – excision – one or more – unilateral	Change price and descriptor: add "ORIF" and "1 st MTP joint"	\$125.00	280% increase	No. of procedures done by Ortho in 2018-19: 1 Amounts paid to Ortho in 2018-19: \$93.75 Additional Costs: \$262.50	\$475.00
460M Hallux rigidus – repair	Change price and descriptor: Replace title with "1 st MTP fusion" and add inclusions	\$407.80	27.5% increase	No. of procedures done by Ortho in 2018-19: 52 Amounts paid to Ortho in 2018-19: \$24,289.59 Additional Costs: \$6,682.91	\$520.00
462M Arthrodesis -- tarsal joints -- one or more	Change price and descriptor: Replace title with "Midfoot fusion (naviculocunieform (3 joints),	\$407.80	67.36% increase (overall)	No. of procedures done by Ortho in 2018-19 (462M): 92 Amounts paid to Ortho in 2018-19: \$55,056.01	\$525.00

	intercunieforn (2 joints), TMT (5 joints) – first joint” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add New code: Midfoot fusion -- each additional joint –bill unit (max 4) 			Additional Costs: \$37,086.53	\$175.00
331K Team Spinal Surgery	Change price	50% of first surgeon's claim	5% reduction	Total Amount paid to Orthopedic Surgery in 2017-18 and 2018-19: \$490,499.03 And \$648,295.68 respectively Savings in each year through 5% reduction: \$49,049.90 And \$64,829.57 Average savings to Orthopedic Surgery: \$56,939.74	45% of first surgeon's claim