



To: Section of Orthopedic Surgery members

From: Dr. Shane Sheppard, Co-Chair, Payment Schedule Review Committee

Date: March 24, 2021

**Re: April 1, 2021 Payment Schedule Changes**

I am pleased to provide you with information on changes to the April 1, 2021 *Payment Schedule* (Tables 1, 2 and 3).

As you are aware, the Section of Orthopedics and SMA staff have been collaborating with Medical Services Branch (MSB) for the past several years on a robust review of the Section's fee codes as part of the Payment Schedule Modernization (PSM) initiative.

The Section of Orthopedics has led the way for PSM in developing modernized fee code proposals for the various orthopedic subspecialties. Seven fee code changes for foot and ankle surgeries were implemented in the April 2020 Payment Schedule. The pandemic delayed further PSM and Tariff Committee work until September 2020.

The April 1, 2021 Payment Schedule will include the remainder of the modernized foot and ankle fee codes, as well as several new fee code requests that were routed through the Tariff Committee. All requests were approved by the conjoint Ministry of Health/SMA Payment Schedule Review Committee in January 2021 and subsequently approved by the Minister of Health. To ensure fairness and appropriateness, the rates for the modernized fee codes will be examined in 6 months and beyond as part of the PSM evaluation process of the foot and ankle subsection codes.

The majority of funding for the fee codes, approximately \$57,447, will come from the New Items Fund. As part of this challenging negotiation, and in order to help fund the modernized items, there is agreement to revise the fee code rates for the foot and ankle fee codes implemented into the April 1, 2020 Payment Schedule (Table 3).

I would like to extend thanks to Dr. Trent Thiessen for his time, perseverance, and patience. This has been a challenging and lengthy process to say the least! Lessons learned will be applied to other orthopedic subspecialties and other Sections who enter into the PSM process.

As well, I would like to express appreciation to Dr. Shayne Burwell, Chair of the SMA Tariff Committee, for the progress made in a concentrated timeline to achieve results on the orthopedic and several other Tariff items.

The Section and SMA staff will continue working with the Ministry of Health on PSM and Tariff item requests, however, with pandemic-related issues remaining as the top priority, any new requests are being closely reviewed and prioritized.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Dr. Trent Thiessen or Ms. Viktoriia Didkovska.

Cc Dr. Elliot Pally, Chair, Section of Orthopedic Surgery  
 Dr. Trent Thiessen, Orthopedic Surgery Intersectoral Council Representative  
 Dr. Shayne Burwell, Chair, SMA Tariff Committee  
 Mark Ceaser, Director, Economics, SMA  
 Viktoriia Didkovska, Acting Team Lead, Economics, SMA  
 Naveed Ahmed, Sr. Analyst, Economics, SMA

**Table 1 Modernized Foot and Ankle fee codes (effective April 1, 2021)**

Code	Change	Current Rate	April 2021 Rate	% Change
441M Distal metatarsal osteotomy for bunion correction	Descriptor and price	\$407.80	\$519.15	27.30%
443M Isolated first MTP debridement including arthrotomy, cheilectomy, and soft tissue realignment	New and separate code		\$471.95	
378M ORIF/Excision of accessory bone foot	New and separate code		\$437.35	
475M Proximal metatarsal osteotomy or 1st TMT fusion with distal lateral soft tissue release and medial capsular plication 1st MTP joint	New and separate code		\$624.75	
459M 1st IP fusion	Descriptor and price	\$356.80	\$490.85	37.57%
457M Lesser claw toe correction (single claw toe correction 2 <sup>nd</sup> through 5 <sup>th</sup> )	Descriptor and price	\$178.40	\$377.55	111.63%
458M Each additional claw toe	New and separate code (with modernized 457M)		\$141.60	
464M Hindfoot arthrodesis of one or all of talocalcaneal, talonavicular, calcaneocuboid joints	Descriptor and price	\$815.60	\$920.30	12.84%
466M Each additional joint	New and separate code (with modernized 464M)		\$212.35	
487M Ankle- reconstruction of ligaments for chronic instability	Descriptor and price	\$433.30	\$519.15	19.81%
850M Arthroplasty 1st MTP joint (hemi or total replacement with implant)	New and separate code		\$519.15	
851M Arthroplasty of lesser MTP joint (hemi or total 2nd through 5th MTP joints with implant)	New and separate code		\$519.15	

**Table 2 Tariff Requests - New fee codes (changes effective April 1, 2021)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fee</b>
461M	Plantar Plate Reconstruction MTP Joint	\$750.00
497M	Ankle Ligament Reconstruction with Allograft/Autograft	\$900.00
647M	Stabilization of Chronically Subluxing Tendon (including all methods)	\$525.00
728M	Achilles Insertional Reconstruction with Bony Resection Calcaneus	\$750.00
383M	Fluoroscopy Guided Joint Injection (Hospital Location)	\$100.00

**Table 3 Foot and Ankle fee codes implemented on April 1, 2020 with new rate effective April 1, 2021**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>April 2021 Rate</b>	<b>% Change</b>
456M	Arthrodesis -ankle	\$970.00	\$874.65	-9.8%
449M	Total ankle replacement	\$1300.00	\$1227.05	-5.6%
460M	1 <sup>st</sup> MTP fusion	\$520.00	\$490.85	-5.6%
379M	ORIF or excision of sesamoid 1 <sup>st</sup> MTP joint	\$475.00	\$448.35	-5.6%
462M	Midfoot fusion	\$525.00	\$495.55	-5.6%
465M	Midfoot fusion- each additional joint	\$150.00	\$141.60	-5.6%