



TO: Section of Psychiatry and Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association members

FROM: Dr. Shane Sheppard, Co-Chair, Payment Schedule Review Committee  
Dr. Gene Marcoux, Section Chair, Section of Psychiatry

DATE: September 27, 2021

**RE: Payment Schedule Modernization: October 1, 2021 Payment Schedule Changes**

We are pleased to provide you with information on upcoming changes to the October 1, 2021 *Payment Schedule* (Table 1).

As you are aware, since 2018 the Section of Psychiatry and SMA staff have been collaborating with Medical Services Branch (MSB) to develop service code descriptors and applicable rates as part of a multi-phased approach to review and modernize the Payment Schedule.

Significant progress has been made through the rate reduction of 50E (simple psychological testing) with redistribution of savings back into the Section, as per the principles of Payment Schedule Modernization (PSM). Phase I changes to 50E were implemented in the October 2019 Payment Schedule. For a variety of reasons, including the impact of the pandemic on the healthcare system, further work was delayed until March 2021, when a working group of Saskatchewan psychiatrists was formed and Phase II of PSM work resumed.

The October 1, 2021 Payment Schedule will include changes made as a result of recommendations developed by the working group; these recommendations were approved by the conjoint Ministry of Health/SMA Payment Schedule Review Committee in July 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.

Two new fee codes have been developed for extended consultations for adults (12E: \$65.05) and children (13E: \$72.05) (Table 2). The extended consultations are billable when consultations (9E/10E) exceed 55 minutes of direct in-person patient care, for the major portion of 15-minute increments, to a maximum of 8 units. Start and stop times must be documented in the medical record. The price for community-based fee codes (5E, 7E, 31E, 35E, 37E, 38E, 39E, 63E, 110E, 111E) will increase by 10%. (Table 1).

We would like to extend our thank you to the Psychiatrists on the working group, Drs. Chen, Hinz, Marcoux, Renuka-Prasad and Sahlu, for their time, perseverance, and

patience. This has been a challenging process to say the least, and on behalf of the SMA and Section Executive, we extend our appreciation for the work they've accomplished!

We continue to learn as the PSM process evolves, and lessons learned will be applied to the final phase, Phase III, as the Section and SMA staff continue working with MSB.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Dr. Marcoux or Viktoriia Didkovska, Acting Team Lead, Economics, SMA.

cc Dr. J. Chen  
 Dr. T. Hinz  
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 Naveed Ahmed, Sr. Analyst, Economics, SMA

**Table 1 Modernized Psychiatry Service Codes (Effective October 1, 2021)**

Code	Current Rate	October 2021 Rate	% Change
New 12E Extended Adult Consultation	N/A	\$65.50	N/A
New 13E Extended Child Consultation	N/A	\$72.05	N/A
5E Initial Assessment	\$155.85	\$171.45	10% increase
7E Follow up Assessment	\$52.65	\$57.90	10% increase
31E Psychiatric social interview	\$59.55	\$65.50	10% increase
35E Family Psychotherapy (first 45 minutes)	\$185.20	\$203.70	10% increase
37E Family Psychotherapy (each subsequent 15 minutes or major part thereof – bill units)	\$60.75	\$66.85	10% increase
38E Individual Psychotherapy or psychiatric counselling- minimum period of 30 minutes	\$119.15	\$131.05	10% increase
39E Individual Psychotherapy or psychiatric counselling- each subsequent 15 minutes or major part thereof- bill units	\$59.55	\$65.50	10% increase
50E Psychological testing -- simple -- bill units	\$27.05	\$15.55	43% decrease
63E Consultation, examination, patient history, admission to hospital and certification of mental ill health a) with completion of Form G	\$244.15	\$268.55	10% increase

110E Psychiatric Care –Patients not admitted to a hospital or health care centre - minimum of 15 minutes	\$59.55	\$65.50	10% increase
111E Psychiatric Care –Patient not admitted to a hospital or health care centre - each subsequent 15 minutes or major part thereof to a maximum of 7, bill units	\$59.55	\$65.50	10% increase

**Table 2 Title, Descriptors and Policy for Extended Consultations for Adults and Children**

<b>TITLES &amp; DESCRIPTORS</b>
<p>12E: Extended adult consultation -- add on to 9E, max 8 units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) payable when consultation (9E) exceeds 55 minutes of direct in-person patient care;</li> <li>b) each complete 15-minute period or major portion thereof of direct in-person patient care; and</li> <li>c) Per "Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing", all time-based codes must have the start and stop times documented in the medical record.</li> </ul> <p>13E: Extended child consultation -- add on to 10E, max 8 units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) payable when consultation (10E) exceeds 55 minutes of direct in-person patient care;</li> <li>b) each complete 15-minute period or major portion thereof of direct in-person patient care; and</li> <li>c) Per "Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing", all time-based codes must have the start and stop times documented in the medical record.</li> </ul>
<b>POLICY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payable only for time spent providing direct in-person patient care for the duration of the consultation. For clarity, these service codes are not payable when the service is provided virtually via technology (i.e., videoconference, telephone or via other technology).</li> <li>• For indirect services e.g. case conference, psychiatric social interview, third party counselling, etc., physicians should bill existing service codes as per the Payment Schedule.</li> <li>• Extended consultations are billable in 15-minute increments or major portion thereof. The first unit is billable at 62.5 minutes of direct in-person patient care to a maximum of 2 hours and 55 minutes (or 8 units).</li> </ul>