

**March 18, 2022**

**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

**RE: April 1, 2022 Payment Schedule Changes**

This memo is being sent to update you on a series of changes to the Payment Schedule, effective April 1, 2022, as part of the multi-phased approach to review and modernize the Section of Psychiatry's fee codes and de-list 50E (simple psychological testing).

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 through the reduction and subsequent de-listing of 50E and redistribution of savings back into the Section using the Payment Schedule Modernization (PSM) process.

The April 1, 2022 Payment Schedule will include changes made as a result of recommendations developed by the Section of Psychiatry's PSM Working Group. These recommendations were approved by the conjoint Ministry of Health/SMA Payment Schedule Review Committee in January 2022 and subsequently 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 usual PSM evaluation process.

The following changes will be implemented in the April 1, 2022 *Payment Schedule*:

**1. 50E – Psychological testing - simple**

This code will be fully de-listed from the *Payment Schedule*, and \$2.3 million in savings will be redistributed to all existing fee codes (see Table 1 on page 3) with the exception of 43E (Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) – technical component).

**2. 45E/47E – Interview with Drugs**

This code will be de-listed due to being outdated with extremely low utilization.

**3. 52E – OPTAX assessment for Attention Deficit Disorder**

This code will be de-listed due to being outdated with extremely low utilization.

**4. Psychotherapy definition/preamble**

The definition will be amended to reflect contemporary medical practice and the requirements of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons:

"Psychotherapy is the informed and intentional application of clinical methods and interpersonal stances derived from established psychological principles by means of a professional relationship between a psychiatrist and a patient. Psychotherapy services include direct contact with a patient for the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis, physical and/or drug treatment, and/or the delivery of therapies sanctioned by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. All services provided must be documented in the patient's health record."

## 5. 35E/37E – Family Psychotherapy

- The definition will be amended:
  - A session where concurrent psychotherapy is conducted with a patient, and a family member(s), romantic partner, or caregiver.
  - Billed in the name of the primary patient, indicating names of the other members treated.
- The time increments for billing purposes will be amended:
  - 35E – Change time period from “first 45 minutes” to “minimum 30 minutes”. This aligns with 38E – Individual Psychotherapy.
  - Billable in 15-minute increments to a maximum of 2 hours per day by the same physician, or same specialty and clinic. This is a system rule and it’s added to the Payment Schedule for transparency.
  - Start and stop times must be documented in the medical record.

## 6. 38E/39E – Individual Psychotherapy:

Removing “psychiatric counselling” from the title of “Individual Psychotherapy or psychiatric counselling” and adding it to the list of components for Psychiatric Care (100E-111E).

## 7. New – Definition of “Major Portion/Part Thereof”

An additional global change that will be added to the Payment Schedule includes a definition for time-based fee codes, of “Major Portion/Part Thereof:

- When submitting claims for services that state major portion or part thereof, at least half of the minimum time stated in the code must have elapsed to be payable. When more than one unit is medically required, each unit except for the last unit must be in full duration. The last unit must make up a major portion (minimum half of its time) of the required time.”

Once again, we would like to thank and acknowledge the work done by the Psychiatrists on the PSM working group, Drs. Chen, Hinz, Marcoux, Renuka-Prasad and Sahlu, for their time, perseverance, and patience. This has been a challenging process, and we extend our appreciation for the work they’ve accomplished!

Further work is underway on consultation fee codes (9E/10E). MSB is keen for us to review other provinces psychiatry consultation fee structures and review relevance of the current consultation codes in our Payment Schedule.

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

cc Dr. J. Chen  
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**Table 1 Psychiatry Service Codes – Rate Changes Effective April 1, 2022**

Code	Description	Rate Oct 2021	New Rate April 2022	Percentage Change
005E	Initial assessment	\$171.45	\$192.75	12%
007E	Follow-up assessment	\$57.90	\$65.10	12%
009E	Consultation: adult	\$247.15	\$277.80	12%
010E	Child Consultation – 17 years of age and under	\$271.65	\$305.35	12%
011E	Consultation: repeat	\$108.30	\$121.75	12%
012E	Extended adult consultation -- add on to 9E, max 8 units	\$65.50	\$73.65	12%
013E	Extended child consultation -- add on to 10E, max 8 units	\$72.05	\$81.00	12%
025E	Hospital Care: first 10 days	\$34.90	\$39.25	12%
026E	Hospital Care: 11-20 days	\$34.65	\$38.95	12%
027E	Hospital Care: 21-30 days	\$30.60	\$34.40	12%
028E	Hospital Care: >30 days	\$30.35	\$34.10	12%
031E	Psychiatric social interview	\$65.50	\$73.65	12%
033E	Group Psychotherapy, first hour, per person	\$35.40	\$39.80	12%
034E	Group Psychotherapy, each subsequent 30 minutes or major part thereof	\$17.70	\$19.90	12%
035E	Family Psychotherapy – first 30 minutes	\$135.80	\$176.75	30%
037E	Family Psychotherapy - each subsequent 15 minutes or major part thereof	\$66.85	\$88.40	32%
038E	Individual Psychotherapy or Psychiatric Counselling: minimum 30 minutes	\$131.05	\$147.30	12%
039E	Individual Psychotherapy or Psychiatric Counselling: each subsequent 15 minutes	\$65.50	\$73.65	12%
042E	Electroshock therapy: with anaesthetist	\$106.35	\$119.55	12%
043E	Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation: technical component	\$82.60	\$82.60	0%
045E	Interview with drugs, first 30 minutes	\$50.70	De-listed	N/A
047E	Interview with drugs, each subsequent 15 minutes or major part thereof	\$24.20	De-listed	N/A
050E	Psychological testing: Simple	\$15.55	De-listed	N/A
051E	Psychological testing: Complex	\$60.00	\$67.45	12%
052E	OPTAX assessment for attention deficit disorder	\$104.00	De-listed	N/A
062E	Examination and certification - Form A.	\$106.40	\$119.60	12%
063E	Consultation, examination, patient history, admission to hospital and certification - Form G.	\$268.55	\$301.90	12%
064E	Consultation, examination and certification of Form G - second psychiatrist.	\$244.15	\$274.45	12%
066E	Repeat examination and recertification: same psychiatrist - within 22 days	\$107.40	\$120.75	12%
067E	Repeat examination and recertification - within 22 days - Form G.	\$107.40	\$120.75	12%
068E	Consultation, examination and a recertification when previous psychiatrist is unavailable	\$244.15	\$274.45	12%
070E	Completion of certification of mental ill health with issuance of form G or form H.1/H.3/H.4	\$43.05	\$48.40	12%
073E	Necessary examination and certification for E.C.T.	\$43.05	\$48.40	12%
074E	Examination and certification for E.C.T. -second psychiatrist	\$43.05	\$48.40	12%
075E	Consultation, examination and certification for E.C.T. not been seen by the psychiatrist	\$238.10	\$267.65	12%
100E	Psychiatric care, admitted patient -- first 15 minutes	\$59.55	\$66.95	12%
101E	Psychiatric care, admitted patient -- next 15 minutes	\$59.55	\$66.95	12%
110E	Psychiatric care, non-admitted patient -- first 15 minutes	\$65.50	\$73.65	12%
111E	Psychiatric care, non-admitted patient -- next 15 minutes	\$65.50	\$73.65	12%
142E	Case Conference -- per conference (not patient) -- first 30 minutes or part thereof	\$106.25	\$119.45	12%
144E	Case Conference -- each additional 15 minutes or part thereof – bill units	\$53.15	\$59.75	12%