

Parental Leave Fund

The Parental Leave Fund is provided through an agreement between the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Government of Saskatchewan. Physicians may apply for benefits if they take parental, surrogacy or adopted childcare leave from clinical practice.

All eligible physicians are encouraged to take advantage of the Fund. Further information may be obtained from the SMA by email: benefits@sma.sk.ca or phone: 306 244 2196 or toll free: 1 800 667 3781

To apply, a physician must:

- a) be licensed with the College of Physician and Surgeons of Saskatchewan under Bylaw 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 or hold a locum license.
- b) be a resident in Saskatchewan and be practicing in Saskatchewan for 26 weeks prior to the date of birth/adoption/surrogacy.
- c) be self-employed
- d) be providing insured clinical services.
- e) not otherwise eligible for parental leave benefits pursuant to federal legislation (e.g. EI benefits), or any other parental leave benefit provided through an employer.

General Information

Physicians who qualify for this program are eligible to receive up to 20 weeks of benefits.

Physicians interested in accessing the program are encouraged to first read the guidelines and to fill out the application/registration form. Based upon this information and a review of practice activity, the SMA will determine eligibility.

Benefits could begin as early as five weeks before the expected date of delivery.

The parental leave must begin within three months of the delivery/adoption/surrogacy date. Application for benefits under this program must be submitted within 6 months from the delivery/adoption/surrogacy date.

In the event of stillbirth (delivery following a minimum gestational age of 20 weeks) or neonatal death, the physician will be eligible for up to 12 weeks of maternity leave benefits.

To access weekly benefits, physicians will fill out a weekly declaration declaring gross earnings in each week that a claim is made.

Physicians will receive 50 percent of their average gross weekly income earned over the past 26 weeks to a maximum of \$2,000 per week. Physicians receiving earned income during their claim period may have benefits reduced. Income earned must be less than \$4,000 per week otherwise, the program benefits would be reduced dollar-for-dollar.

Physicians may be asked to provide additional information to substantiate their claims.

The parental leave must begin within three months of the delivery/adoption/surrogacy date. Application for funds under this benefit must be submitted within six months from the delivery/adoption/surrogacy date.

Income Tax

Money received from the Parental Leave Fund must be declared as income for tax purposes.