

# MSCommuniqué

Communicating the policy and directives of the Medical Services Commission of British Columbia

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**CMQ96-005**

**Protocol for  
Macroscopic and  
Microscopic  
Urinalysis**  
*(for samples  
referred to  
laboratories)*

*Minute of the Commission # 96-0020*

Pursuant to Section 4 ~~of~~ Section 32(4) of the *Medical Protection Act*, the following payment protocol will apply with respect to the Medical Services Commission *Payment Schedule*:

Microscopic urinalysis (Fee item 9232) will be considered a benefit under the Medical Services Plan only when rendered in conformity with the Protocol for Macroscopic and Microscopic Urinalysis, appended.

This protocol shall be used for audit purposes and the Medical Services Commission Recovery Policy for Diagnostic Facilities will apply to facilities that do not comply.

Effective March 1, 1996

\*Protocol distributed January 24, 1996

*Completion of Lab Requisition Forms for Urinalysis*

Urine specimens requiring both macroscopic and microscopic analyses must be identified on the lab requisition form with a notation reflecting special category.

*Evaluation of Macroscopic Analysis*

Laboratories should implement a process to evaluate macroscopic results before proceeding to microscopic analysis of urine specimens. Billing procedures must reflect only the work performed.

**CMQ06-006**

**Guideline for  
X-ray for Acute  
Ankle Injury**

*Minute of the Commission # 1164*

Pursuant to Sections 19(1) and 32(4) of the Medicare Protection Act, the Medical Services Commission hereby adopts the attached clinical practice guideline for X-Ray for Acute Ankle Injury, effective December 7, 1995.

\*Guideline distributed March 15, 1996

Clinical practice guidelines and protocols are initiatives under the Working Agreement between the British Columbia Medical Association, the Provincial Government, and the Medical Services Commission.

It is the responsibility of the physicians of the Province to adhere to guidelines and protocols, once they are implemented.

Additional copies of the guideline and protocol are available through *Info by Fax* (604) 356-9644 or by calling (604) 952-2670

**Members:**

David S. Kelly (Chair)  
Keith J. Bennett  
Barbara R. Bluman  
Dr. David Bolton  
Dr. C. John Chacko  
Patricia K. Kaatz  
Kimberley L. McEwan  
Thea Vakil  
Dr. Brian Winsby

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**CMQ96-007** \*

**MSP Enrollment Requirement for Physicians Paid through Alternative Funding Arrangements**

Under the *Medicare Protection Act*, all medical and health care practitioners who provide services funded through the Medical Services Plan (MSP) must be enrolled with MSP and have a valid practitioner number. This regulation applies to both practitioners paid directly through fee-for-service payment and practitioners remunerated indirectly through non fee-for-service funding arrangements with agencies.

For more information, contact Practitioner Services, MSP at (604) 952-2654.

**CMQ96-008** \*

**Pension Benefits for Physicians Retained by Agencies through Service Agreements**

Eligibility for the Contributory Professional Retirement Savings Plan (CPRSP), established in 1993, has been extended to those physicians resident in the province who are funded through the Medical Services Commission's Service Agreements with agencies and organizations. Entitlement to CPRSP benefits will be based on earnings from these Service Agreements in 1993 and subsequent years. Physicians can roll their income from Service Agreements in 1994 and 1995 together and use their combined RRSP contributions towards entitlements for 1994 and 1995.

Physicians should contact agency's medical or financial administrator for additional information.

**CMQ96-009**

**Northern and Rural Locum Assistance Program**

The Commission has approved a Northern and Rural Locum Assistance Program (NRLAP) to assist physicians practicing in northern and rural communities in accessing a qualified short term primary care locum. Priority is given to northern and rural communities with three or less practicing physicians eligible for Northern and Isolation Allowance. The NRLAP will contract with physicians prepared to provide locum services under the terms of the program.

For more information, call (604) 952-3019.