

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

SPECIALIST PHYSICIAN CONSULTATIONS, REFERRALS AND RE-REFERRALS

BETWEEN:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
as represented by the Ministry of Health

(the “Ministry”)

AND:

ASSOCIATION OF DOCTORS OF BC

(the “Doctors of BC”)

(individually a “party” and collectively the “parties”)

WHEREAS:

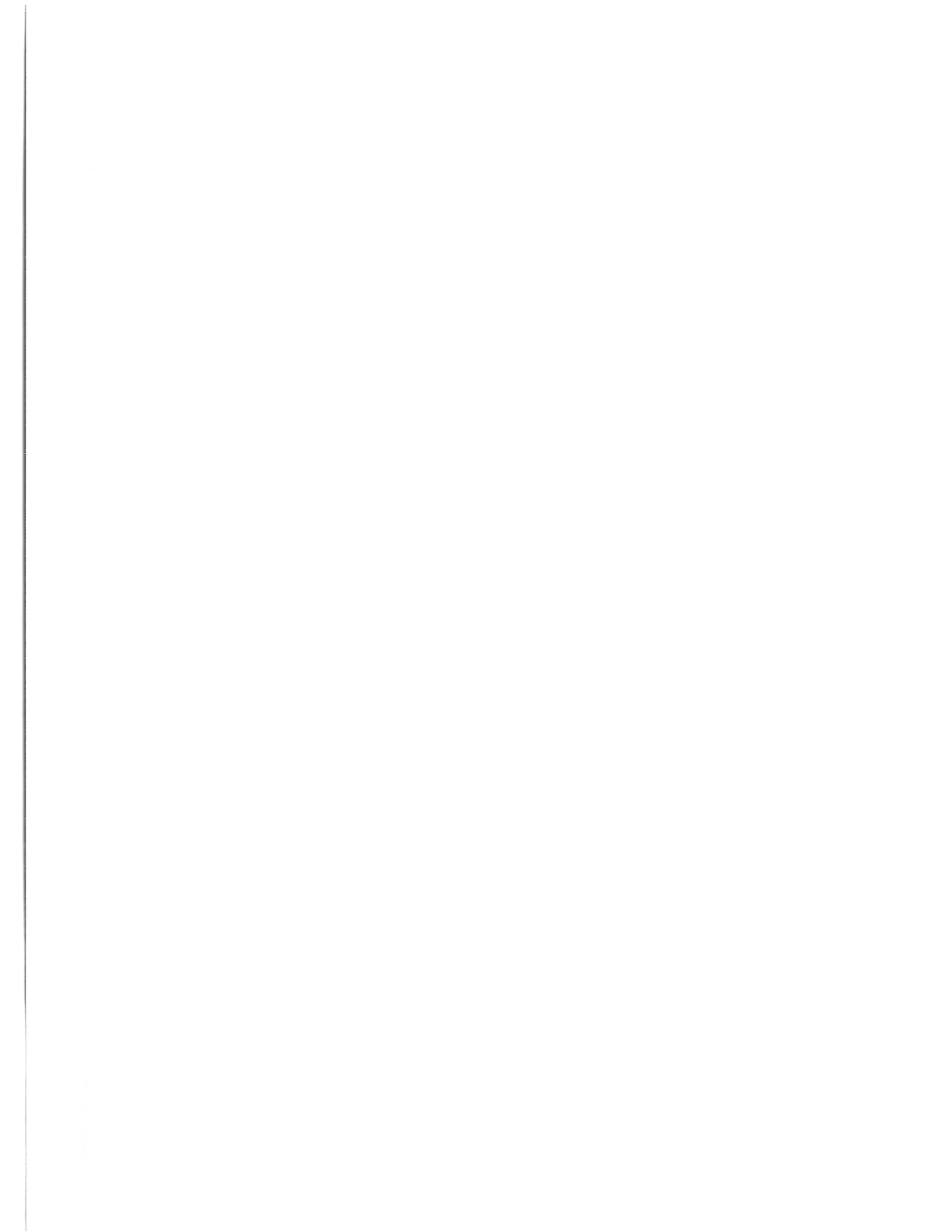
- A. The parties share an interest in ensuring that the provisions of the Payment Schedule established under the *Medicare Protection Act* (the “**Payment Schedule**”) support the provision of high quality and cost-effective health care services, including timely access to primary care and specialized care.
- B. Patients, family physicians and specialist physicians have raised concerns regarding the current provisions of the Payment Schedule related to consultations, referrals and re-referrals, particularly in connection with the experience of patients who need a re-referral from their family physician where the specialist physician has determined that another consultation is medically required.
- C. In response to these concerns, the Doctors of BC Tariff Committee established a Consultation Working Group in January, 2020 comprised of representatives from the Ministry, the Doctors of BC’s Tariff Committee, BC Family Doctors, and Consultant Specialists of BC to undertake a thorough review of the Payment Schedule provisions related to referrals and consultations.

- D. On advice of the Consultation Working Group, Doctors of BC and MSP has issued clarifications to help interpret the language of the Payment Schedule.
- E. The parties agree that changes to the Payment Schedule are necessary in order to address the issues and concerns that have been raised.

THEREFORE:

1. The parties will establish a Consultation and Referral Working Group (“CRWG”) with a mandate to develop recommendations for changes to the Payment Schedule in relation to consultations and referrals. The CRWG will develop recommendations by March 31, 2023.
2. The CRWG will be comprised of representatives appointed by the Ministry and the 6 Doctors of BC members who are presently members of the Consultation Working Group of the Tariff Committee. The CRWG will be supported by Eric Harris, KC, who will act as a neutral facilitator.
3. Funding to pay for half the cost of the facilitator and for the participation of the Doctors of BC representatives on the CRWG will be provided from one-time funds available to the Shared Care Committee. The Ministry will directly fund the other half of the cost of the facilitator.
4. The Ministry will provide \$5 million in on-going funding effective April 1, 2023 for the cost of implementing the recommendations of the CRWG, in addition to any projected cost savings from the recommendations. If some or all of the funding is not required for the recommendations, then the remaining funding will be provided to the Consulting Specialists of BC as additional funding for new/adjusted fees for Specialist Physicians.
5. In developing its recommendations, the CRWG will be guided by the following principles:
 - a. The criteria and requirements for payment for consultations, follow-up and continuing care services by the consultant physician should support access to initial consultations by specialists and longitudinal primary care.
 - b. In circumstances where, in the physician’s clinical judgement, repeated consultations are medically necessary to provide appropriate ongoing care, the current level of administrative burden for family physicians and consultant physicians should be decreased, and the patient experience should be improved, as compared with the current state.
 - c. Concerns about inappropriate billing should be addressed through claims adjudication, audit and education.

- d. Any amendments to the Payment Schedule should be clear, easy to apply and appropriate to enable adjudication and audit.
 - e. The recommendations will not result in overall reduction in compensation for any Section within the Doctors of BC.
6. In the event that the members of the CRWG are unable to reach a consensus on the recommendations by March 31, 2023, the facilitator will determine the recommendations by April 30, 2023. For the CRWG a consensus decision is a decision which has the support of the representatives of the Ministry of Health and at least 5 of the 6 representatives of Doctors of BC.



7. The recommendations of the CRWG or the facilitator pursuant to section 6, will be submitted to the Medical Services Commission as Revisions By Agreement in accordance with Article 13.1 of the 2022 Physician Master Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Memorandum of Agreement by or in the presence of their respective duly authorized signatories as of the 1st day of April, 2022.

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED on)
behalf of HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN)
RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF)
BRITISH COLUMBIA, by the Minister)
of Health or their duly authorized)
representative:)




Signature of Authorized Signatory

Mark Armitage)
Name)

ADM, HSWBS, MoH)
Position)

THE CORPORATE SEAL of the)
ASSOCIATION OF DOCTORS OF BC)
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:)

)
Signature of Authorized Signatory)

Dr Ramneek Dasanjh)
Name)

President of Doctors of BC)
Position)



