

CMQ97-023

**Protocol for
Erythrocyte
Sedimentation Rate**

Minute of Commission #97-054

Approval of Protocol for Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate

Pursuant to Section 5(1) (o), Section 24(1) and Section 37(5) of the *Medicare Protection Act*, the following protocol will apply with respect to the Medical Services Commission *Payment Schedule*:

Services relating to the use of erythrocyte sedimentation rate will be considered a benefit under the Medical Services Plan only when rendered in conformity with the *Protocol for Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate*, appended.*

This protocol will be used in the determination of benefits payable under the *Medicare Protection Act*.

Effective October 1, 1997.

* Protocol distributed September 1997

CMQ97-024

**Amendments to the
Medicare Protection Act
- Audit and Inspection**

Amendments to Sections 36, 37, 43 and 51 of the *Medicare Protection Act* were brought into force through Order-in-Council on September 11, 1997, with the passing of the *Medicare Protection Amendment Act*. Key amendments include:

Authority for inspection by auditors acting on behalf of MSP is expanded to include audits of claims paid by MSP on behalf of a prescribed agency, (ie. WCB and ICBC). These claims or billings need not be under the *Medicare Protection Act* and the authority to audit applies to claims which have arisen since the effective date of the audit provisions (July 24, 1992).

Grounds for making an order of recovery of payment for improper claims extends not only to medical practitioners but also to the owner of a diagnostic facility and the representative of the professional corporation.

An appeal by a practitioner, an owner of a diagnostic facility or a representative of a professional corporation with respect to an order must now be made directly to the BC Supreme Court rather than to the Medical and Health Services Appeal Board.

Members:

Martin S. Serediak (Chair)

Keith J. Bennett

Barbara R. Bluman

Dr. David Bolton

Dr. C. John Chacko

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**CMQ97-025
Amendments to
Northern and Isolation
Allowance Program**

Minute of Commission #97-066

Northern and Isolation Allowance Program

In accordance with Section 4(1)(q) of the *Medicare Protection Act*, the 1997/98 Terms of Reference for the Northern and Isolation Allowance Program are amended as follows:

PART B - POINT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

1. MEDICAL ISOLATION FACTOR

- a) Number of General Practitioners in the Community
Assessment Procedure:

“General practitioners practising in a community within 35 kilometers (½ hour) of the NIA community by road and meeting the FTE income figure are counted. General practitioners practising in a community within 35 kilometers (½ hour) of the NIA community by ferry are not counted.”

is deleted and replaced with:

“General practitioners practising in a community within **25 kilometers** of the NIA community by road and meeting FTE income figure are counted. General practitioners practising in a community within **25 kilometers** of the NIA community by ferry are not counted.”

Dated: October 15, 1997

**CMQ97-026
Extension of
General Practice
Daily Volume Limits**

Further to CMQ96-023 (Volume 1, No. 7), the effective period for amendments to the Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule - General Practice Daily Volume Limits has been extended until an alternative proposal is developed. The previous expiry date of March 31, 1998, is cancelled as per Minute of Commission 97-0070, dated October 27, 1997.