

MSCommuniqué

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

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CMQ99-004

Approval for Out-of-Country Gamma Knife Treatment

Stereotactic radiation using a modified linear accelerator has been available in British Columbia since June 1997. Gamma knife treatment is not available anywhere in Canada. Only patients who are specifically recommended for Gamma knife treatment by the British Columbia Cancer Agency (BCCA) will be reimbursed for that treatment by the Medical Services Plan (MSP). Prior approval must be obtained through the MSP Out-of-Country Claims Unit.

The Out-of-Country Claims Unit can be reached at **(250) 952-2654** (for Victoria) and **(604) 806-0234** (for Vancouver and Lower Mainland) – **press 4**. The fax number is **(250) 952-2964**.

CMQ99-005

Services To Family and/or Household Members

Minute of Commission #99-031

Amendment to Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule – Preamble to the Payment Schedule

In accordance with Section 26(3) of the *Medicare Protection Act*, the following modification to the Payment Schedule has been approved by the Medical Services Commission, effective immediately:

Preamble A.19

Services to Family and/or Household Members:

- (1) Services are not benefits of the Medical Services Plan (MSP) if they are provided by a medical practitioner to the following members of the practitioner's family:
 - (a) a spouse,
 - (a) a son or daughter,
 - (a) a step-son or step-daughter,
 - (a) a parent or step-parent,
 - (a) a mother-in-law or father-in-law,
 - (a) a grandparent,
 - (a) a grandchild,
 - (a) a brother or sister, or
 - (a) a spouse of a person referred to in paragraph (b) to (h).
- (2) Services are not benefits of MSP if they are provided by a medical practitioner to a member of the same household as the medical practitioner.

Members:

Martin S. Serediak (Chair)
Keith J. Bennett
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CMQ99-006

**Protocol for Use of
Glucose and HbA_{1C}
Tests in Diagnosis
and Monitoring of
Diabetes Mellitus**

Minute of Commission #99-011

**Approval of
*Protocol for Use of Glucose and HbA_{1C} Tests
in Diagnosis and Monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus***

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

Protocol for Use of Glucose and HbA_{1C} Tests in Diagnosis and Monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus, appended.*

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

Effective: March 1, 1999

* Protocol distributed February 1999

CMQ99-007

**Protocol for Clinical
Approach to Adult
Patients with
Gastroesophageal
Reflux Disease**

Minute of Commission #99-013

**Approval of
*Protocol for Clinical Approach to Adult Patients with
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease***

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

Protocol for Clinical Approach to Adult Patients with Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease, appended.*

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

Effective: March 1, 1999

* Protocol distributed February 1999

Note: Protocols are available through the Professional Support Info-by-Fax line at **(250) 356-9644**, or by calling **(250) 952-1770**. Protocols are also posted on the MSP web site at: <http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/msp/protolst.html>. Please e-mail your questions or comments to: guidelines.protocols@moh.hnet.bc.ca.