

Frequently Asked Questions: Business Cost Premium

ELIGIBILITY: WHO OR WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR BCP?

Q - What qualifies as ownership costs?

A - Examples of ownership costs include mortgage, utilities, property taxes, etc.

Q - There are multiple physicians working in a group clinic, with some paying towards business expenses and others who are not. How does that work?

A - Only the physicians who pay towards the rent, lease, or ownership costs of an eligible office would qualify for the BCP.

Q - Are walk-in clinics eligible?

A - Yes, if the walk-in clinic is located in an eligible geographical location, and you are an eligible physician paying towards the lease, rent or ownership costs of the clinic.

Q - I am working as a locum, do I qualify?

A - Yes, if you work in a clinic that qualifies and part of your agreement is to cover some of the lease, rent, or ownership costs. The payment will be paid to the Payee number you have assigned on the Assignment of Payment form. The payment should be distributed between the host physician/clinic and locum as per your agreement.

Q - If I receive Rural Retention Premiums (RRP), do I qualify for the BCP?

A - No, eligible locations include the city of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, the greater Victoria area, and other communities not eligible for the RRP. There are other mechanisms in-place for funding in rural locations.

Q - I work in a clinic but do not own it, do I qualify?

A - Yes, if it is an eligible clinic and you pay towards the lease, rent, or ownership costs.

Q - What fees are eligible?

A - Consultation, Visit, Counselling, and Complete Examination fees are eligible, all of which require face-to-face time with the patient. Procedural fees are currently not eligible for the BCP.

Q – Are Telehealth fees eligible?

A – No, Telehealth fees are not eligible for the BCP. Only fees for in-person, face-to-face Consultation, Visit, Counselling and Complete Examination services will qualify. The BCP is to compensate eligible physicians for the work they do with their patients in their community-based office.

FACILITY NUMBER: OBTAINING A FACILITY NUMBER AND ATTACHING A PHYSICIAN

Q –When working as a locum, can I apply online for the BCP and Assignment of Payment at the same time?

A – Not at this time. These are two separate forms. Practitioner attachment for the BCP can be completed online using a new electronic form, while the existing Assignment of Payment form must be submitted by Canada Post or fax.

Q - What if I practice at more than one office?

A - If you practice at more than one eligible office (e.g. two offices) and pay towards the lease, rent, or ownership costs at both places, then you would be eligible for the BCP whenever you provide eligible services at either location. You must complete the Practitioner attachment for each unique eligible office.

REGISTRATION: APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Q—I received an error message saying the information on my application does not match MSP records. What does this mean?

A—This most likely means you have entered your Payee number in the MSP Practitioner Number field instead of your personal MSP Practitioner number.

Q—The Application for MSP Facility Number asks for the Facility Effective Date. What is this?

A—This is the date the clinic/ office originally opened at its current location. If you don't know the date, please use April 1, 2020.

Q—Who do I call if I experience technical difficulties with an application form?

A—You can call the HIBC Practitioner number for technical assistance with a form:

Vancouver:	(604) 456-6950
Elsewhere in B.C.:	1-800-456-6950

PREMIUM: HOW WILL THE BCP BE PAID?

Q - Where will my payment notification show up?

A - It will show up as a Level 1 adjustment on your remittance statement.

Q - Can facility owners retain all of the BCP?

A - The BCP is an MSP payment and the sharing between physicians and clinic owners should be based on your current agreement regarding overhead costs, unless you agree to an alternative arrangement. The PMA clearly states that the BCP is for physicians, and therefore clinic owners cannot automatically retain all of the BCP.

Q – Is the daily maximum per physician per location?

A – No, the daily maximum is per physician per day across all locations or facilities.

OTHER QUESTIONS: EMR? CLAIMS SUBMISSION?

Q - How do I know if my EMR has the capability or functionality to process the BCP?

A - The Doctors Technology Office is consulting with the EMR vendor-community to gauge readiness for implementation. However, as there are 100+ Teleplan certified billing vendors, it is recommended that physicians follow up with their billing software company/EMR vendor for information regarding their specific software as soon as possible.

Q – Can an existing Teleplan field (e.g. data centre, service location code, MSP billing #) be used for BCP identification purposes, rather than having to register for a Facility Number?

A – No. Existing fields do not identify the physical location of the community-based office. After registration an office will be assigned a unique Facility Number. The new Facility Number is the best field for administering the BCP given the technical parameters of the Teleplan system. It is a “mandatory field” which means that every software provider is already required to have that field built into their product, although you may not see it right now.

Q – What if I submit a procedure fee with the BCP facility number on my billing claim in error? Or, what if I submit all my claims which are a mix of eligible and non-eligible fees with a BCP facility number?

A – The claims system will be programmed to only apply the BCP to the eligible fee items submitted by eligible physicians. If you submit a non-BCP fee item, the system will process your claims in the usual manner and will not apply the premium.

Q. – What happens if I submit a claim with a facility number and I have not registered my practitioner attachment to the facility?

A. – The claim will be refused with an explanation that the practitioner has not been attached to the facility number.