

# Glossary

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**Alternative Payments**

Funding of physician services by non fee-for-service modes, e.g. salary, session and service contracts.

**Business Cost Premium Amount**

Business Cost Premium Amount is a percentage premium paid on a basket of eligible fees to compensate physicians practicing in community-based offices where they are responsible for the lease, rental or other overhead costs of the office.

**Expenditure**

Includes adjudicated fee schedule amount, retroactive payments, rural retention program payments and tray fees.

**Fee-for-Service**

Funding method where payment is made for each service rendered.

**Fee Item**

Code/description used to identify services provided by a practitioner. Each fee item has an associated "fee" that is paid to the practitioner for providing the service.

**Fiscal Year**

The B.C. government fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

**Health Authorities**

There are five regional health authorities, one provincial health authority, and one First Nations health authority. Each regional health authority covers several Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDAs).

**Health Service Delivery Areas**

Each Health Service Delivery Area consists of several Local Health Areas (LHAs).

**Interest**

Interest is paid on payments made more than 90 days after the claim is submitted.

**Local Health Area (LHA)**

Geographic grouping that aggregates to the HSDA level. Each LHA resides in one HSDA and one HA.

**Medical Practitioners**

Practitioners registered with the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons to practice in B.C.

**Medical Services**

Medically required services provided by general practitioners and specialists, including laboratory services and diagnostic procedures.

### **Most Recent Specialty**

A practitioner's most recent specialty is the specialty with the latest date of MSP registration. If the registration dates match, then the specialty with the highest numeric value is used.

### **Other Health Practitioners**

Practitioners who provide services insured through MSP Supplementary Benefits program or the Midwifery program and who are approved for licensure by their respective Colleges/Associations.

### **Out-of-Province Claims**

Out-of-Province claims include four separate cases:

1. When a Canadian resident from another province (except Quebec) receives medical care in B.C., MSP will pay the B.C. physician at the B.C. fee rates. The Ministry of Health will pay the B.C. hospital. The patient's home province/ territory will then reimburse B.C. for insured physician and hospital services under the provincial reciprocal payment agreements.
2. When a B.C. resident receives physician services in another province/territory (except Quebec), the physician is paid by the appropriate agency in the providing province/territory, at the fee rates in the providing province. The province/territory will then bill B.C. for the insured medical services that are eligible for payment under reciprocal payment agreements.
3. As in (2), but when a B.C. patient personally pays for services received in Quebec or in another province, MSP will reimburse the patient for the insured medical services when services are provided by a licensed physician. MSP will pay the out-of-province physician directly or reimburse the B.C. patient at the B.C. or Quebec provincial fee rates.
4. When a B.C. resident receives emergency medical care outside Canada, MSP will reimburse the B.C. resident or the out-of-country provider for the physician services at B.C. fee rates. B.C. will pay the hospital in-patient care up to a maximum CAD\$75.00 per diem.

### **PEOPLE 2024 Estimates and Projections**

Measures of the historical and current populations and a forecast of future population growth in B.C. These statistics are prepared by BC Stats.

#### **Population**

Number of persons residing in a geographic region. Population estimates used in this report are sourced by BC Stats.

#### **Practitioners**

Clinical health providers, including family medicine physicians, specialist physicians, and other health practitioners such as naturopaths, orthodontists and midwives. See *Specialty, Medicine* and *Specialty, Other Health Practitioners* below for a list of practitioner categories.

#### **Registrant**

Person registered with MSP.

### Retroactive Payment

Payment made for services rendered in the past. Usually this refers to payment for retroactive fee increases (from negotiated agreements) on services rendered in previous fiscal years.

### Rural Retention Program (RRP)

Premium paid to an approved practitioner who provides services in an isolated area. The RRP varies according to the degree of isolation of the community.

### Service Code

Grouping of services provided by practitioners. Each service code is associated with one or more fee item. Each fee item is associated with only one service code.

### Specialty, Medical

Categories of physician care, including family medicine and specializations, and their codes.

| Code | Description                        | Code | Description                   |
|------|------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 00   | Family Practice                    | 26   | Cardiology                    |
| 01   | Dermatology                        | 28   | Emergency Medicine            |
| 02   | Neurology                          | 29   | Medical Microbiology          |
| 03   | Psychiatry                         | 33   | Nuclear Medicine              |
| 05   | Obstetrics & Gynaecology           | 44   | Rheumatology                  |
| 06   | Ophthalmology                      | 45   | Clinical Immunology & Allergy |
| 07   | Otolaryngology                     | 46   | Medical Genetics              |
| 08   | General Surgery                    | 47   | Vascular Surgery              |
| 09   | Neurosurgery                       | 48   | Thoracic Surgery              |
| 10   | Orthopaedic Surgery                | 49   | Respirology                   |
| 11   | Plastic Surgery                    | 50   | FP – Anesthesia*****          |
| 12   | Cardiac Surgery                    | 51   | Endocrinology                 |
| 13   | Urology                            | 53   | Critical Care Medicine        |
| 14   | Paediatrics                        | 54   | Pain Medicine*                |
| 15   | Internal Medicine                  | 55   | Radiation Oncology**          |
| 16   | Radiology                          | 56   | Gastroenterology              |
| 17   | Laboratory Medicine                | 57   | General Internal Medicine***  |
| 18   | Anaesthesia                        | 59   | Nephrology                    |
| 19   | Paediatric Cardiology              | 67   | Infectious Disease            |
| 20   | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation | 74   | Hematology Oncology           |
| 21   | Public Health                      | 75   | Palliative Medicine****       |
| 23   | Occupational Medicine              | 76   | FP – Emergency Medicine****   |
| 24   | Geriatric Medicine                 |      |                               |

\* Effective January 1, 2017

- \*\* Effective June 30, 2016.  
 \*\*\* Effective July 1, 2018.  
 \*\*\*\* Effective July 1, 2019.  
 \*\*\*\*\* Effective November 1, 2020.

### Specialty, Other Health Practitioners

#### Categories of other health practitioners and their codes.

| Code | Description        | Code | Description           |
|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 30   | Chiropractors      | 39   | Optometrists          |
| 31   | Naturopaths        | 40   | Dental Surgeons       |
| 32   | Physical Therapy   | 41   | Oral Medicine         |
| 34   | Osteopathy         | 42   | Orthodontists         |
| 36   | Paediatric Dentist | 43   | Massage Practitioners |
| 37   | Oral Surgeons      | 68   | Acupuncture           |
| 38   | Podiatrists        | 80   | Midwives              |

### Specialists

Medical practitioners with specialties other than Family Medicine. For analytical purposes, Public Health physicians and Occupational Medicine physicians are grouped with General Practice in this report.

### Tray Fee

Tray fees are paid in addition to the fee paid for the service and are only applicable when the costs are actually incurred by the physician; it is not applicable when the service is performed in a funded facility. A list of eligible procedures for which tray fees are covered is provided in the Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/msp/physicians/payment-schedules/msc-payment-schedule>.