

Number: Med 201	Date: May 28, 2018	Page: 1 of 2
Subject: Fertility Coverage under the AHCIP	Reference:	

To: all physicians and billing staff

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (plan) does not cover fertility treatments, such as in vitro fertilization and other assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) used to enhance conception.

What fertility services does the plan cover?

The plan does cover consultations, visits, or tests (including radiology and laboratory services) required to diagnose infertility and any treatments or surgeries to correct the physiological causes of infertility, in accordance with General Rule 3.3 of the Alberta Schedule of Medical Benefits (SOMB):

Except for services known to be uninsured, the initial visit(s) to establish a diagnosis of the patient's condition is an insured service, including situations where the patient has been referred to another physician. After establishing a diagnosis during the initial visit(s), if the physician determines the service is not medically required, or is an uninsured service, all subsequent services related to the uninsured service such as preoperative tests, assessments, consultations, surgical procedures, anaesthetic or surgical assists may not be claimed.

The plan also covers services to repair or improve the condition of the reproductive system and medical services provided during a pregnancy resulting from fertility treatments.

The professional judgment of the physician will determine when a diagnosis of infertility has been established and treatment is appropriate.

What fertility services are not insured under the AHCIP?

All physician, hospital, diagnostic and laboratory services that treat infertility are not insured. Claims for these services are not payable by the plan and should not be submitted to Alberta Health for

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Number: Med 201	Date: May 28, 2018	Page: 2 of 2
Subject: Fertility Coverage under the AHCIP	Reference:	

payment. The costs associated with these procedures must be paid privately by the Alberta patient. Examples of services that are uninsured when part of fertility treatments are listed below:

- initial and follow-up physician visits
- stimulating multiple follicles and eggs to develop
- egg retrieval
- fertilizing eggs in a laboratory
- embryo transfer to the uterus
- post-diagnosis laboratory and diagnostic imaging procedures

Fertility treatments, including ARTs such as in vitro fertilization (IVF), intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), intrauterine insemination (IUI), artificial insemination, ovarian stimulation, sperm transfer, and gamete transfer, are not considered medically necessary, are not insured under the plan, and are not part of Alberta's publicly funded health-care system.