

<b>Number:</b> Gen 109	<b>Date:</b> November 30, 2018	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 2
<b>Subject:</b> Retroactive Payments for the 2017-18 COLA Adjustment.	<b>Reference:</b> 2018 Amendment to the Alberta Medical Association Agreement	

**To: all practitioners and billing staff**

The 2018 Amendment to the Alberta Medical Association Agreement established an amount of \$45 million to represent the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The COLA amount will be allocated via a retroactive adjustment made to rates and prices effective April 1, 2017. A series of retroactive payments will be issued to physicians for services provided from April 1, 2017 until the implementation of the revised Schedule of Medical Benefits on November 1, 2018. Payments will include adjustments for Fee for Service, Business Cost Program, Rural and Remote Northern Program, and Alternate Relationship Plans:

**Dates of Service April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, inclusive** – The lump sum payments will be issued on:

- a. **December 7, 2018.** The payment will represent the full retroactive adjustment for services provided in this period. The payment will equal a proportional distribution of the \$45 million based on the payments received by the physician during this period. Amounts distributed will align with the AMA Macro Allocation. Retroactive payments for dates of service April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 will be reported on the Statement of Account as follows:
  - i. Fee for Service – “FFS Retro-Pymt 2017-18”
  - ii. Rural Remote Northern Program – “RRNP Retro-Pymt 2017-18”
  - iii. Alternative Relationship Plans – “ARP Retro-Pymt 2017-18”
- b. **Late December 2018.** The retroactive adjustment for Business Cost Program will be issued in a separate payment targeted to be made sometime in December. This retroactive payment will be reported on the Statement of Account as follows:
  - i. Business Cost Program – “BCP Retro-Pymt 2017-18”

**Dates of Service April 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018, inclusive** – lump sum payments will be issued:

- a. **December 7, 2018** – for services provided in this period and paid up to and including November 9, 2018. Any services paid after November 9, 2018 will be included in the next payment for this period. This payment will include retroactive adjustments for Fee for Service payments only.

.../2

---

**Approval:** Camille Bailer  
**Position:** Executive Director  
 Provider Compensation and Strategic Partnerships Branch,  
 Health Workforce Planning and Accountability Division

<b>Number:</b> Gen 109	<b>Date:</b> November 30, 2018	<b>Page:</b> 2 of 2
<b>Subject:</b> Retroactive Payments for the 2017-18 COLA Adjustment.	<b>Reference:</b> 2018 Amendment to the Alberta Medical Association	

**b. Mid-May 2019** – services provided in this period and paid after November 9, 2018, including any resubmissions, will be included in this retroactive payment. This payment will include retroactive adjustments for Fee for Service, Business Cost Program and Rural and Remote Northern Program.

Retroactive payments for dates of service April 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018 will be reported on the Statement of Account as follows:

- a. Fee for Service – “FFS Retro-Pymt 2018-19”
- b. Business Cost Program – “BCP Retro-Pymt 2018-19”
- c. Rural Remote Northern Program – “RRNP Retro-Pymt 2018-19”

Each lump sum payment will be made by automatic deposit (electronic funds transfer) to the Business Arrangement payee under which the service was provided. In cases where multiple physicians are associated with a business arrangement, information on the retroactive amount attributable to each physician can be obtained by emailing [Health.InfoRequest@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Health.InfoRequest@gov.ab.ca). Please include the following details with your request; Office Name, Office Address, Contact Name with Contact Email Address and Phone Number, and the Business Arrangement Number you are making the request for. A representative from Alberta Health will follow up on your request.

There will not be a Statement of Assessment associated with the lump sum payments, as the retroactive payment process does not involve the reassessment of individual claims.

Remember to provide Alberta Health with updated information regarding any changes to your banking or address information. For information on how to contact Alberta Health with these changes, please refer to General Bulletin 60.