

Number: Med 152	Date: November 2, 2009	Page: 1 of 1
Subject: New health service code – telephone advice regarding H1N1 virus		Reference: Schedule of Medical Benefits

To: all physicians and billing staff

In accordance with the Physician Services Agreement and discussions between the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health and Wellness, a provisional health service code, 03.01AD, is being implemented in the Schedule of Medical Benefits.

With this new health service code, Alberta residents (and patients who are eligible under the medical reciprocal program) who have suspected or active H1N1 symptoms and need to restrict their travel to reduce the spread of the disease will be able to consult a physician by telephone, and physicians will be compensated accordingly. The Procedure List and Price List details are as follows:

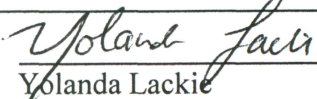
03.01AD Telephone advice to a patient or their agent (agent as defined in the Personal Directives Act (RSA 2007c37s3)) regarding H1N1 virus 20.00

- NOTE: 1. May only be claimed when a declaration of a public health emergency is made pursuant to 52.1(1), of the *Public Health Act*; or when the Chief Medical Officer of Health determines, in his discretion, that it is appropriate to implement this health service code even though a public health emergency has not been declared.
2. May only be claimed for direct physician telephone advice provided to a patient or their agent about the patient’s suspected or active H1N1 symptoms.
3. May only be claimed when the request for advice is initiated by a patient or their agent.
4. May only be claimed once per patient, per physician, per day.
5. Benefit includes providing a new prescription or prescription renewal if provided.
6. May not be claimed for providing general information on H1N1.
7. May not be claimed for services provided through Health Link.
8. Documentation of the request and advice given must be recorded.

HSC	BASE RATE	TYPE	CODE	EXPLCT	ACTION	AMOUNT	CAT
03.01AD	20.00						V

Health service code 03.01AD will be activated **only in accordance with Note 1 above**, and will remain active for the duration of the state of emergency or for as long as the Chief Medical Officer of Health determines it should remain active. With respect to Note 5 above, benefits include the provision of a new prescription or a prescription renewal, which could be via fax, email or telephone call to the pharmacy.

Please note: Alternate Relationship Plan (ARP) physicians are eligible to submit fee-for-service claims for 03.01AD. When applicable, ARP physicians should submit claims for 03.01AD in the same way they submit their other claims. These 03.01AD claims will be processed as fee-for-service claims and paid to the ARP Business Arrangement.

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