

Number: MED 212	Date: February 20, 2020	Page: 1 of 2
Subject: Payment for Diagnostic Imaging Referred by Chiropractors, Physiotherapists, and Audiologists		

To: Physicians, Chiropractors, Physiotherapists, and Audiologists and their billing staff

The Ministry of Health is making changes to the Schedule of Medical Benefits effective March 31, 2020.

What is changing?

Effective March 31, 2020, claims for Diagnostic Imaging (DI) services that are referred by a chiropractor, physiotherapist, or audiologist are de-insured and no longer covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

- This does not affect the ability of a Chiropractor, Physiotherapist, or Audiologist to prescribe DI services; however, the payment for these services will be the patient's responsibility. Practitioners are advised to inform patients of out-of-pocket costs for any DI services referred by them. Claims for DI services that are referred by a chiropractor, physiotherapist, or audiologist should not be submitted to Alberta Health.

Payment for Diagnostic Imaging Related to an Uninsured Service:

As per the rules of the Schedule of Medical Benefits, physicians cannot be compensated for providing services which are uninsured or related to an uninsured service. Chiropractors, physiotherapists, and audiologists do not provide insured services; as such any diagnostic imaging referrals from these practitioners are also uninsured.

This change does not affect these practitioners' scopes of practice, or their ability to order diagnostic imaging services. It only affects who is paying for the service. As an uninsured service, payment for these services will be the responsibility of the patient.

Effective Date:

This change will be effective March 31, 2020. Changes to the Claim Assessment System (CLASS) and publication of the revised Schedule of Medical Benefits are underway but may not be available by March 31, 2020. Any claims paid for DI services that are referred by a non-publicly funded practitioner provided on or after March 31, 2020 will be subject to re-assessment and retroactive recovery at a later date.

Once the CLASS is updated a revised Schedule of Medical Benefits will be posted online at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/fees.html>

Inquiries:

Any general inquiries regarding this change can be sent to health-pcsp.admin@gov.ab.ca. Specific questions related to billing can be directed to 780-422-1600.

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