
President's Letter

October 27, 2014

Future on-call payments guided by second on-call data collection exercise



Wendy Graham, MD, CCFP
President

In this letter:

- *The next on-call data collection exercise will be from November 18 to December 2, 2014. All physicians in approved call rotas are required to participate if on call during the data collection period.*
- *This will be the last time for you to report your on-call interactions, which will determine your intensity-based call payments for the next two to three years.*
- *Full and accurate completion of the On-Call Payment Data Collection Form will have a direct financial impact on your future on-call payments. Failure to submit the Form on a daily basis may affect the level of payment that you, and members of your call rota, will receive.*
- *(If you are not in an approved call rota under the Provincial On-Call Program, this on-call data collection exercise does not apply to you.)*

Dear Colleagues:

On November 18, the NLMA and the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) will launch the second on-call data collection exercise to identify on-call interactions of all approved rotas under the Provincial On-Call Program.

The goal of the data collection exercise is to measure the intensity of those on-call interactions, which will determine the level of intensity-based payments for all FFS and salaried physicians who do call. The two-week data collection period will run from November 18 to December 2, 2014. All physicians who are on call during that period are required to participate.

In the coming weeks, the NLMA will distribute the *On-Call Payment Data Collection Form* to all call rotas in the province. The Form will record the frequency and duration of interactions of physicians while on call. The Form was developed by both the NLMA and DHCS, and incorporates feedback from members who participated in the first on-call data collection exercise. The data collected will be analyzed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI).

The need for recognition of call intensity in addition to "availability" is an issue that has been raised repeatedly by NLMA members during past President's Tours and specialty-specific consultations. This led to the first on-call data collection exercise in the spring of 2014. Unfortunately, a number of rotas either submitted incomplete data or did not submit any data, which resulted in some rotas being assigned to the lowest level tier for payment.

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The NLMA and DHCS are committed to a compensation model that appropriately recognizes call interaction intensity for all physicians. The second data collection exercise is intended to bolster the data collected during the first exercise and to ensure that all rotas have ample opportunity to participate.

This will also be the last time for physicians to submit data related to their on-call interactions, which will set their future intensity-based call payments for the next two to three years. Therefore, it is imperative that all members who are on call from November 18 to December 2 provide full and accurate reporting.

A coordinator has been identified for each call rota who will ensure that the *On-Call Payment Data Collection Forms* are distributed to physicians that are on-call during this period. Physicians are expected to submit completed *On-Call Payment Data Collection Forms* by fax on a daily basis. Failure to accurately complete and submit the form may result in some physicians, and the members of their rota, being assigned to a payment tier that does not accurately reflect their level of call intensity.

If you do not receive the *On-Call Payment Data Collection Form* from your rota coordinator by November 18, please contact the NLMA by emailing oncallsurvey@nlma.nl.ca or by calling (709) 726-7424.

To better prepare you for the upcoming data collection exercise, a completed sample *On-Call Payment Data Collection Form* and FAQ sheet are included with this letter.

Again, I would like to stress that future intensity-based call payments for each rota will be guided by the data that you submit. Your full and active participation is required to ensure that you and the members of your call rota are appropriately recognized.

Regards,



Wendy Graham, MD, CCFP
President