

President's Letter

November 2, 2018



**Tracey Bridger
MD, FRCP(C)
President**

New Fee Codes available as part of the FPRP Fee Code Program

Dear Colleagues,

As you may have heard, the Family Practice Renewal Program (FPRP) has recently launched two new fee codes as part of its Fee Code Program for fee-for-service family physicians. I'm writing to let you know the codes are active and registration is now open for a Shared Care Code and Patient Telephone Code.

The new Shared Care Code provides participating physicians with compensation for two-way collaborative conferencing with other health care providers for the development of a patient care plan. The new Patient Care Telephone Code provides participating physicians with compensation for two-way telephone communication between the physician (or other health care provider employed within the physician's office) and the patient (or the patient's medical representative).

The Fee Code program was designed in close consultation with fee-for-service family physicians from across the province representing both rural and urban areas. Priority is given to fee codes that encourage and facilitate comprehensive care, improved patient access, increased coordination and collaboration between family physicians and other providers, improved health outcomes, improved recruitment and retention of family physicians, and improved patient-physician longitudinal attachment.

The Fee Code Program is currently working on developing new fee codes to address compensation for chronic disease management.

The codes are also for services that are not insured by MCP. While MCP is the entity that will issue payment to physicians who bill the FPRP codes, the funding comes directly from the FPRP budget.

The FPRP has an annual budget allocation of \$4.5 million, which is co-governed by the NLMA and the Department of Health and used to design new programs and initiatives. Other FPRP initiatives include a Practice Improvement Program, which will provide education and resources to support family physicians with practice management and clinical needs, as well as the establishment of Family Practice Networks (FPNs). FPNs provide a structure and mechanism for physician-led groups to address common issues facing family medicine in their communities in collaboration with regional health authorities.

In order to bill the new fee codes, physicians must register with the FPRP's Fee Code Program and meet certain eligibility criteria. Many physicians with long-term relationships with their patients will satisfy the minimum qualifying criteria. In cases where a physician may not meet the eligibility requirements, FPRP staff can work with physicians to provide the appropriate supports. To learn more about the criteria and to register [click here](#).

Member involvement in any of the FPRP's three core initiatives is completely voluntary and physicians may participate in any program area of their choosing. To learn more about how you can benefit from these initiatives, please visit familypracticerenewalnl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey Bridger".

Tracey Bridger, MD, FRCP(C)
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to a representative of the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association.

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