
President's Letter

November 8, 2017

2013-2017 MOA Update



Lynn Dwyer, MD
President

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you that representatives of the NLMA and the provincial government plan to sign the 2013-2017 Memorandum of Agreement on November 17.

An Agreement in Principle was reached in 2015, and ratified by a vote of the membership in October of that year, but finalizing the legal text took longer than expected. Further delays occurred as we sought to finalize the terms of reference for binding arbitration (which will now be the subject of further discussions after the MOA is signed), and as the government sought additional amendments to the MOA in June 2017 (which the government set aside after opposition from the NLMA).

We have been advised by government that systems are ready to make retroactive payments to salaried, fee-for-service and APP physicians within weeks of the signing. We have informed the government that it is essential the payments are made within 2017. It will take some additional time to implement the specific fee code increases and, in the interim, FFS physicians will receive across-the-board adjustments in their biweekly pay. In addition, salaried physicians will see quarterly payments included in their biweekly pay.

Other improvements negotiated in the MOA include:

- new fee code initiatives developed for the Family Practice Renewal Program;
- fee code review process;
- new data-sharing agreement;
- review of the Rural FFS Retention Bonus program for family physicians;
- maintain CMPA reimbursement;
- and, development of criteria and methodology for transitioning hospital-based services to private offices.

The full text of the MOA will be posted to the NLMA website and shared with members once it is signed.

Best Regards,



Lynn Dwyer, MD
President



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