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March 20, 2020

173-2020-20

From: Ministry of Health

To: Ontario Hospitals and Ontario Health (Local Health Integration Networks)

Re: Funding for hospital and medical services for patients who do not have provincial health insurance during COVID-19

This memorandum addresses the provision of medically necessary services in hospitals to persons who do not have health insurance under OHIP or another provincial health insurance plan.

The Ministry of Health ("Ministry") is committed to ensuring that all people in Ontario receive medically necessary health care during the COVID-19 outbreak. To this end, and until further notice, the Ministry requests hospitals provide all medically necessary services to all persons who present at a hospital, regardless of whether the person presents a valid OHIP card, or does not have health insurance under OHIP or another provincial health insurance plan.

Services for uninsured persons should be prioritized consistent with the prioritization of services for insured persons. Uninsured persons should not be provided with services currently not available to insured persons (e.g., if the hospital is currently not performing elective surgeries).

Hospitals should endeavour to collect payment for such services from private insurers, where applicable. Where payment from private insurers is not available for the services, at a later date, the Ministry, through its agencies, will provide payment to hospitals for both the physician and hospital services provided to all such patients.

Payment for hospital services will be provided at the [2019/2020 interprovincial hospital billing rates](#) and physician services will be provided at the existing [Schedule of Benefit for Physician Services](#) (the "Schedule") rate(s). Hospitals will be required to ensure the distribution of payments to physicians who provided these services.

To facilitate reconciliation and payment, the Ministry requests hospitals to keep records of all services provided to such patients. Records should include the following information: patient name, gender and age; physician Schedule fee code(s) applicable to the services; applicable per diem rate(s). The Ministry will provide a tracking spreadsheet with the appropriate information to all hospitals shortly.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Patrick Dicerri
Interim Assistant Deputy Minister
Ontario Health Insurance Plan Division

Mike Heenan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Hospitals and Capital Division

c: Bruce Lauckner, CEO, West Region
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