

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE**  
*Primary Health Care Team*

**FACT SHEET**

**Title:           Rurality Gradient Premium**

**Date:           November 2006**

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**Eligible Patient Enrolment Models (PEMs):**

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|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Health Networks (FHNs) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Care Networks (PCNs) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Health Groups (FHGs)   |  |
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Appendix E, Section 9.3 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the Ministry) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) includes provisions for a Rurality Gradient Premium effective April 1, 2006.

- The Rurality Gradient is an annual premium paid automatically to all Signatory Physicians who qualify based on their OMA Rurality Index of Ontario (RIO) Score.
- To be eligible, a physician must practice in a community with an OMA RIO Score of 45.00 or greater. RIO scores of 45.00 qualify for a payment of \$5,000.00. For each increment of five (5) points above 45.00 an additional payment of \$1,000.00 will be paid. For example, an OMA RIO Score of 57.72 equals an annual premium payment of \$7,000.00.
- To establish a physician's Rurality Gradient premium, the Ministry matches a physician's current practice address to a pre-determined list of OMA RIO Scores. Physicians may contact the OMA or refer to its website at [www.oma.org](http://www.oma.org) for more information regarding OMA RIO Scores.

**Payment**

- The Rurality Gradient Premium is an annual premium which is paid monthly as an Accounting Transaction with the text line "RURALITY GRADIENT PREMIUM" on a physician's Solo Remittance Advice (RA).
- The Rurality Gradient Premium may be adjusted by the Ministry when a physician ends his/her affiliation with his/her group or his/her practice address changes. All adjustments will be processed as an Accounting Transaction with the text line "RURALITY GRADIENT RECONCILIATION". Please advise the Ministry immediately of any changes to your practice address or your affiliation to a PEM.
- Eligible physicians will receive payment for the Rurality Gradient Premium retroactive to April 1, 2006 on the November 2006 RA. The payment will be reflected in two Accounting Transactions as follows:
  1. "RURALITY GRADIENT RECONCILIATION" (for the period of April 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006), and
  2. "RURALITY GRADIENT PREMIUM" (for the month of October 2006).

**Reporting**

- FHN and Group Level PCN physicians: Individual physician information is provided on both the group and solo RAs on each physician's *Payment Summary Report*.
- FHGs and Solo Level PCN physicians: Individual physician information is provided on the solo RA on each physician's *Payment Summary Report*.

**For more information please contact your local Ministry office or  
your site team at 1-866-766-0266.**