

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

FACT SHEET

Title: Rurality Gradient Premium

Date: November 2006

Eligible Patient Enrolment Models (PEMs):

- Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin (WHA)
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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 for more information regarding OMA RIO Scores.

Payment

- The Rurality Gradient Premium is paid monthly as an Accounting Transaction with the text line "RURALITY GRADIENT PREMIUM" on the B-Group Remittance Advice (RA) as the sum of each physician's premium amounts.
- 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". This adjustment will be equal to the sum of each physician's premium amounts. 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 August 1, 2006 on the December 2006 RA. The payment will be reflected in two Accounting Transactions as follows:
 1. "RURALITY GRADIENT RECONCILIATION" (for the period of August 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006), and
 2. "RURALITY GRADIENT PREMIUM" (for the month of November 2006).

Note: Rurality Gradient Premium payments for the period of April 1, 2006 to July 31, 2006 (your group's commencement date) will be included as part of retroactive payments calculated for WHA.

Reporting on the B-Group RA

- Group Level information is provided on the *Group Total - Summary Report*.
- Individual physician information is provided on two reports:
 1. Each physician’s existing *Payment Summary Report*, and
 2. A new *Rurality Gradient Premium Summary Report* (sample provided below)

RURALITY GRADIENT PREMIUM SUMMARY REPORT

NAME	PHYSICIAN	NUMBER	CURRENT	PREMIUM ADJUSTMENT	YTD
DR. ONE		123455	500.00	0.00	1,500.00
DR. TWO		123456	500.00	0.00	1,500.00
DR. THREE		123457	416.67	-83.33	1,333.34
TOTAL			1,416.67	-83.33	4,333.34

Note: In the above example, the first two physicians have OMA RIO Scores of 52.50 for a monthly premium payment of \$500.00. The third physician’s monthly premium payment has been adjusted to \$416.67 as a result of an address change. In addition, in this example, an adjustment of -\$83.33 to a previously paid premium has been processed due to the address change.

Reporting on the Solo RA

- Group Level information is provided to each physician on the *Group Total - Summary Report*.
- Individual physician information is reported 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.**