

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

**FACT SHEET**

**Title: Primary Care Nurse Practitioners: Special Premiums and After Hours Services**

**Date: March 2007**

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Health Networks (FHNs)    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural and Northern Physician Group Agreement (RNPGA)        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group Health Centre (GHC)        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Eastern Ontario Academic Medical Organization (SEAMO) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Joseph's Health Centre       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin (WHA)                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Health Organization (FHO) |   |

The 2004 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) includes provisions that allow eligible services provided by Registered Nurses in the Extended Class (RN (EC)), commonly known as Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (PCNPs), to accumulate to physicians' Special Premiums effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. In addition, the MOA allows PCNPs to fulfill the obligation for one session of after hours care per week for a primary care group.

This fact sheet provides information on applicable Special Premiums and reporting, After Hours and the steps required to affiliate a PCNP with your Harmonized Model (HM) so that his/her Special Premium contributions provided during both regular and after hours are captured.

**Special Premiums**

- Beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, any eligible services provided by an affiliated PCNP (submitted with the RN (EC) billing number) with service dates of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 or later will contribute to accumulations for Special Premium payments for Home Visits, Prenatal Care, and Office Procedures. (See below "Steps to Affiliate a PCNP".)
- There is no limit on the number of PCNPs that may be affiliated with your group.
- A PCNP may be affiliated with more than one HM at the same time.
- An affiliated RN(EC) may submit claims using his/her six (6) digit RN (EC) billing number for eligible services that are within his/her scope of practice as described in the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991 (RHPA) and the *Nursing Act*, 1991, are delegated by physician(s), or are covered by a medical directive in the appropriate situation.

Note: This does not in any way change or affect the delegation of service rules as set out in the Physician Schedule of Benefits or the RN (EC) Scope of Practice as described in the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991 (RHPA) and the *Nursing Act*, 1991<sup>1</sup>. In addition, submission of claims for these premiums does not change any program requirements the PCNP may currently have with regards to performance reporting.

<sup>1</sup> See also: College of Nurses of Ontario documents: CNO Practice Standard, Registered Nurses in the Extended Class (2005)  
CNO Reference Document: Legislation and Regulation: RHPA: Scope of Practice, Controlled Acts Model (2005)

- Following receipt of confirmation of a PCNP's affiliation with your group, he/she may submit claims for eligible services that contribute to Special Premiums. Regular stale-dating rules will apply to claims submitted with the RN (EC) billing number.
- A PCNP may submit claims for eligible services with his/her RN (EC) billing number using your existing billing system/software. It may be necessary for you to consult with your software vendor to add the PCNP to your current billing system.  
Note: If your group submits claims with a B-group number, the PCNP may also submit for eligible services using your HM's B-group number.
- Eligible services submitted with the RN (EC) billing number will be processed and paid at zero dollars. Any services that are not eligible for contribution to a physician's Special Premiums will reject to the PCNP's claims error report with the error code 'EPA – PCN billing not approved'. Please refer to your primary care agreement for the list of eligible services that contribute to each of the applicable Special Premiums.
- Services submitted by a PCNP affiliated with your group will be reported on the Payment Summary Report on your solo and group RA. An example of Special Premiums reporting with PCNP contributions is attached for your reference.
- The implementation of this initiative has been delayed; please contact your Ministry site team if you have any concerns regarding services provided by a PCNP during the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 fiscal years that may have contributed to your special premiums for Home Visits, Pre-Natal, and Office Procedures.

### **After Hours Services**

- PCNPs can fulfill the obligation of one session of after hours care per week for your group.
- PCNPs should only submit claims for eligible services that will contribute to physicians' Special Premiums.

### **Steps to Affiliate a PCNP:**

Note: The process below applies to those PCNPs who already have an RN (EC) billing number. Those who do not should contact their local Ministry office for information on how to obtain an RN (EC) billing number.

1. The PCNP and Lead Physician must complete and sign a *Nurse Practitioner Authorization for Primary Care Harmonized Model Agreements* form (attached).
2. The PCNP must also complete and sign:
  - *Undertaking by Physician/Practitioner for Participation in Machine Readable Input* (MRI) form, and
  - *Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) Undertaking and Acknowledgement* form (if applicable).
3. Completed forms must be sent to your Ministry site contact.
4. The Ministry will confirm the PCNP's affiliation with your group in writing to the Lead/Contact Physician.
5. The PCNP may begin to submit claims for eligible services once the above confirmation has been received and the PCNP is approved for diskette/electronic submission.

Note: If a PCNP was associated with your group prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, he/she should date the *Nurse Practitioner Authorization for Primary Care Harmonized Model Agreements* form April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

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

**Example of Special Premium reporting on the RA:**

CURRENT FISCAL (2005/2006) -----	PREMIUM ACCUMULATIONS		PREMIUM PAYMENT	
	CURRENT MONTH	YTD	CURRENT MONTH	YTD
HOSPITAL: MIN SERVICE LEVEL \$2000 PREMIUM (\$5000)	220.90	820.90	.00	.00
OBSTETRICS: MIN SERVICE LEVEL 5 PREMIUM (\$3200)	1	3	.00	.00
OFFICE PROC: MIN SERVICE LEVEL \$1200 PREMIUM (\$2000) * (NP)	272.50 101.25	1287.40 665.35	2,000.00	2,000.00
PALLIATIVE CARE: MIN SERVICE LEVEL 4 PREMIUM (\$2000)	0	0	.00	.00
HOME VISITS: MIN SERVICE LEVEL 100 PREMIUM (\$2000) * (NP)	11 6	21 12	.00	.00
PRENATAL: MIN SERVICE LEVEL 5 PREMIUM (\$2000) * (NP)	3 2	9 6	2,000.00	2,000.00
PC-SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS: MIN SERVICE LEVEL 5, 10 PREMIUM (\$1000, \$2000)	0	1	.00	.00
CURRENT FISCAL TOTALS			4,000.00	4,000.00
PREVIOUS/CURRENT FISCAL TOTALS			6,000.00	6,000.00
* AMOUNT INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL ACCUMULATIONS				