

Physician Billing - Information and Resources

Purpose

To provide select, publicly available information and resources to physicians who are affiliated with Alberta Health Services (AHS) when billing for healthcare services delivered while using Virtual Health (Telehealth) videoconference technologies.

Specific questions or concerns related to physician billing should be directed to the entities identified in the Billing Resources for Physicians on [page 2](#) of this document.

Background

- Physicians who are licensed to practice in Alberta submit billing information regardless of their remuneration model, whether they are compensated through Fee for Service or a salary-based model such as the Alternate Relationship Plans or the Academic Medicine and Health Services Programs.
- The Schedule of Medical Benefits (SOMB) is the list of insured medical benefits, fees and governing rules under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). Certain Virtual Health encounters (Telehealth) are billable services within the SOMB.

FAQs about Physician Billing for Virtual Health (Telehealth)

What information is available to support physicians in using Virtual Health to provide patient care at a distance?

Physicians who plan to deliver healthcare services to patients using Virtual Health (Telehealth) technologies are encouraged to contact the College of Physicians & Surgeons (CPSA) <http://www.cpsa.ca/> with any questions related to Standards of Practice for virtual care.

The **AHS Healthcare Provider Considerations in Virtual Care – Virtual Health Recommendation** provides information and resources for physicians who are considering delivering virtual care. It is located on the **Virtual Health** page on AHS Insite.

What is a billable Virtual Health (Telehealth) service?

The AHCIP Medical Governing Rules specify where the physician and patient are to be located and the acceptable videoconference modality, in order to submit a claim using a Telehealth Fee Modifier code.

What is a Telehealth Fee Modifier?

A Telehealth Fee Modifier is provided in the AHCIP SOMB, and is added to specific Health Service Codes (HSC) when a physician submits billing information for patient appointments that occur using Virtual Health (Telehealth). The HSC identifies what health service has been delivered. Not all HSCs are eligible for a Telehealth Fee Modifier.

Virtual Health – Physician Billing Information and Resources | 2

Does information about billing for Virtual Health (Telehealth) change?

The Medical Governing Rules and other AHCIP billing resources are updated annually, and it is recommended that physicians review this information on a regular basis for any new information related to Telehealth (Virtual Health) billing.

Where can I find more information and billing help for Virtual Health (Telehealth)?

Physicians can access the AMA Fee Navigator (see below), and an AMA Billing Help Telephone number is available to assist with navigating Virtual Health (Telehealth) billing.

Billing Resources for Physicians

Resource	Control + Click to Follow Link	Additional Information
Alberta Health Fees information for health professionals	https://www.alberta.ca/fees-health-professionals.aspx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Governing Rules • Fee Modifier Definitions – includes current modifier codes and definitions • Medical Benefits Price List – includes the specific modifiers that apply to each HSC • Medical Benefits Procedure List
Alberta Health: Health Insurance Programs Branch Billing Help		Telephone Contact Edmonton: 780-422-1600 Toll Free: 310-0000
Alberta Medical Association Schedule of Medical Benefits webpage	https://www.albertadoctors.org/services/physicians/compensation-billing/billing-help/somb#SOMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMA Fee Navigator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical Governing Rules • Billing Corner • SOMB
Alberta Medical Association AMA Fee Navigator	https://www.albertadoctors.org/fee-navigator	Search the Modifiers drop down menu on the left to find Medical Governing Rules for Telehealth.
Alberta Medical Association Billing Help	https://www.albertadoctors.org/services/physicians/compensation-billing/billing-help	Can't find what you're looking for? Email: billingadvice@albertadoctors.org