



FAMILY PRACTICE RENEWAL PROGRAM

SHARED CARE CODE

FAQS AND BILLING SCENARIOS

1. What Primary Healthcare Providers can the family physician undertake a conference with in order to bill shared care fee code **520**?

The shared care fee code is intended as compensation when the family physician undertakes a conference with a licensed or regulated primary care professional in the province of NL. Examples include:

Licensed Practical Nurses

Registered Nurses

Nurse Practitioners

Psychologists

Social Workers

Licensed Therapists and Counsellors

Registered Dietitians

Physiotherapists

Occupational Therapists

Pharmacists

Audiologists

Respiratory Therapists

Speech-Language Pathologists

Conferences with other family physicians and specialists are excluded.

2. Can shared care fee code **520** be billed when a family physician conferences with a primary healthcare provider working within a practice, either employed by the physician or employed by the health authority (or other organization) and embedded within the practice?

No, conversations about a patient, between the family physician and a primary healthcare provider that is located in the family physician's office are part of the normal medical office workflow and would not be eligible for fee code 520.

3. If a hospital or other care facility has a multidisciplinary team meeting to discuss the needs of a patient and the care plan for the patient necessitates the patient's family physician is involved in the meeting, can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

Yes, family physician conferencing with a group of primary healthcare providers would

qualify for the use of fee code 520.

4. In a group practice, is the shared care fee billable for conferencing services provided by a family physician in relation to the patient of another family physician within the practice for whom he/she is providing coverage?

Yes, when covering for a colleague the family physician can bill shared care fee code 520 for conferences with primary healthcare providers on his/her colleagues existing patients, if the covering physician is already registered with the fee code program.

5. What is the maximum number of payments allowed per patient?

Conferences are payable to a maximum of 2 units per patient per day and to a maximum of 100 conferences per physician annually.

If the patient is present, the conference is payable at \$30 per 15 minutes (i.e. one unit) in addition to the normal visit fee.

If the patient is not present, the conference is payable at \$30 per the greater part of 15 minutes (e.g. after 8 minutes of visit time).

6. If more than one patient is discussed during the same conference, is shared care fee code 520 billable for each patient discussed?

Yes, if multiple patients are discussed, the billings shall be consecutive, non-overlapping time periods.

7. Is shared care fee code 520 billable by physicians who are working under salary, service contract or sessional arrangements?

No, physicians working under salary, service contract or sessional arrangement would not qualify.

8. Is shared care fee code 520 billable for conferencing on a patient that is in a facility (i.e. acute care facility) at time of conference?

There is no patient location restriction for fee code 520 if the collaborative conferencing with other primary healthcare providers involves the development of a care plan for the patient.

It is NOT payable for situations where the purpose of the call is to:

- a. book an appointment
- b. arrange for an expedited consultation or procedure
- c. arrange for laboratory or diagnostic investigations
- d. arrange a hospital or long term care bed for a patient

- e. **provide notification of services performed**

The conference must:

- a. **be pertinent to the treatment of the patient's current condition**
- b. **involve two-way collaboration to determine an appropriate care plan for the patient**

9. Is shared care fee code **520** billable for conferences that do not occur face-to-face?

Shared care fee code 520 is payable to fee-for-service family physicians for two-way collaborative conferencing with a primary healthcare provider that occurs either by telephone or in person.

10. How do I document the time-spent conferencing about an individual patient if the conference takes place over several time intervals on the same day, but cumulatively adds up to 15 minutes?

When conferencing with multiple providers over the course of the day, add up the total time spent conferencing and document in the patient's chart the providers conferenced with and when.

The care plan in the chart should include the following information:

- a. **patient's name**
- b. **date and time of service**
- c. **diagnosis**
- d. **reason for need of clinical action plan**
- e. **health care provider's with whom you conferred and their role in provision of care**
- f. **clinical plan determined, including tests ordered and/or administered**

11. Are locum physicians able to access shared care fee code **520** when covering for a family physician enrolled in this fee code program?

Yes, locums will be eligible to bill shared care fee code 520 if:

- a) **The physician for whom the locum is covering is already a registrant; AND**
- b) **The locum is providing a period of replacement that is greater than three months, with at least 20 days in one calendar month considered one month of replacement service.**

BILLING SCENARIOS

1. A family physician called a specialist (e.g. Nephrologist) to discuss a patient's medical condition and seek advice on how best to treat the patient. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

No, the shared care fee is not billable for consultations with specialists.

It is payable for conferencing with a licensed or regulated primary care professional in the province of NL. Examples include:

Licensed Practical Nurses

Registered Nurses

Nurse Practitioners

Psychologists

Social Workers

Licensed Therapists and Counsellors

Registered Dieticians

Physiotherapists

Occupational Therapists

Pharmacists

Audiologists

Respiratory Therapists

Speech-Language Pathologists

Conferences with family physicians and specialists are excluded.

2. A family physician confers with another family physician with advanced training in dermatology for advice on how to manage a patient's rash. Can either of the family physicians bill shared care fee code **520**?

No, the shared care fee is not billable for discussions between family physicians.

3. A social worker contacts a family physician for advice on a home-based intervention and care plan for the physician's elderly COPD patient. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

Yes, the shared care fee is billable for collaborative conferencing between the family physician and the social worker on the patient's care plan.

4. A wound care nurse contacts a family physician to request a prescription for antibiotics for the physician's patient who has an infected foot wound. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

Yes, the shared care fee is billable for the discussion between the family physician and the nurse on the patient's clinical presentation and treatment needs.

5. A pharmacist contacts a family physician to request a change in the physician's patient's antibiotic due to the patient's elevated creatinine level. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

Yes, the shared care fee is billable for the discussion between the family physician and the pharmacist on the patient's abnormal test result and subsequent need for change in medication treatment.

6. A family physician consults with a diabetic nurse educator regarding education needs for a patient she saw in clinic that day. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520** in addition to the same day office visit?

Yes, the shared care fee is billable in addition to an office visit (same day) if required.

7. A family physician collaborates with a Licensed Counsellor at a nearby school on an Individual Support Services Plan for a child. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

Yes, the physician can bill shared care fee code 520 for conferencing with the Licensed Counsellor on the child's Individual Support Services Plan.

8. A family physician collaborates with a Registered Nurse in a Long Term Care Facility regarding that physician's patient on the patient's plan of care. Can the family physician bill shared care fee code **520**?

Yes, the physician can bill shared care fee code 520 for conferencing with the Registered Nurse on the patient's care plan.