



Practice Guideline: Uninsured Services (2022)

Practice Guidelines are recommendations developed by the College with which members should be familiar and follow whenever and wherever possible and appropriate.

Uninsured Services

Preamble

Patients may request physician services which are not covered by the Medical Care Plan (MCP). In accordance with this Practice Guideline, a service may be billed directly to the patient in circumstances where it is not covered by MCP or another insuring body.

Definitions

Uninsured services: services provided by a physician to an insured patient which are not covered by MCP. Examples include, but are not limited to: certificates and forms, tests required for employment, and transfer of medical records.

Practice Guideline

The College expects physicians to adhere to the following guidelines when determining whether to charge a patient a fee for an uninsured service:

- The fee charged should be reasonable and commensurate with the service(s) provided. Physicians should consider a patient's ability to pay when determining a fee and the possibility of waiving or reducing a fee on compassionate grounds.
- Refer to the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association's [Physicians' Guide to Non-Insured Services](#) for the recommended schedule of fees (if applicable). Physicians must let patients know if they are charging more than this guide and the reason(s) why.

- Inform patients of any fee to be charged in advance of providing the uninsured service. Posting a general notice listing fees for common uninsured services is not a substitute for directly informing patients of the fees associated with uninsured services prior to providing them.
- Maintain clear documentation in support of all fees charged for uninsured services.

Acknowledgements

CPSBC (2022) Charging for Uninsured Services
 CPSNS (2018) Professional Standards Regarding Billing

Related Documents

NLMA (2018) [Physician’s Guide to Billing Non-Insured Services](#)

Document History

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