

Physician Remuneration for COVID-19 Vaccination Services

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: 17-Feb-2021

Q1. How are physicians to be remunerated for services rendered at COVID-19 vaccination sites organized by hospitals or Public Health Units (PHUs)?

Physicians are eligible to be paid for services using the H409 and H410 fee codes—as applicable to the time and date of service delivery—for vaccination services rendered at hospital or PHU coordinated vaccination sites. These vaccination sites are designated by the Ministry of Health (“the ministry”) as eligible Assessment Centres for the purpose of the H409/H410 fee codes.

The H409/H410 fee codes provide comprehensive hourly remuneration for all insured services rendered at these hospital or PHU-coordinated vaccination sites, and for being available to provide such insured services. No other fee codes are eligible for payment during the applicable time periods.

All H409 and H410 claims must be billed with the group number assigned to the coordinating hospital or PHU.

Q2. Does this include temporary COVID-19 vaccination sites, such as those coordinated at Long Term Care Homes (LTCHs) and other community settings?

Yes, physicians deployed by a hospital or PHU to render COVID-19 vaccination services at a LTCH or other community setting are also eligible to claim the H409/H410 sessional fee codes for each hour service provided at the temporary vaccination site. These vaccination sites are also designated as Assessment Centres for the purposes of billing these codes. The critical requirement is that either a hospital or PHU must take the lead in coordinating the vaccine clinic location.

Q3. How are physicians to obtain the group number that is required for H409/H410 fee code claims submitted to OHIP?

The applicable group number should be obtained from the hospital or PHU vaccination lead, or, from the Assessment Centre administrator of the coordinating entity. The physician should discuss this with the person responsible for coordinating their work at the COVID-19 vaccination site.

Q4. Will a unique Assessment Centre group number be assigned for each PHU or will there be a separate group number assigned to each COVID-19 vaccination site?

Each PHU in the province will be assigned a unique group number for use in association with all COVID-19 vaccination sites coordinated by that PHU.

Q5. What about eligible services that may have been rendered before a group number was assigned by the ministry? Will physicians be able to bill for those services?

Designations may be made retroactively by the ministry. Physicians will be eligible for payment for vaccination services at these sites using the H409/H410 fee codes retroactively to December 14, 2020.

Q6. Why is the ministry remunerating physicians for the provision of vaccination services using the H409/H410 fee codes?

Designating vaccination sites as Assessment Centres facilitates payment for physicians deployed by hospitals and PHUs to support high-volume expedient vaccine delivery. The H409/H410 fee codes do not require input of individual Health Card Numbers, which reduces administrative burden and improves patient flow-through.

Q7. People may interpret what qualifies as hospital or PHU-coordination differently. What does this “coordination” mean?

When a physician is asked by either a hospital or PHU (by an individual the hospital or PHU has designated to do so) to attend a specific location on a specific date/time to support vaccination service delivery at that site, this would constitute hospital or PHU coordination.

Q8. Some physicians have been asked to perform non-clinical planning work to assist with vaccine roll out. Can these physicians claim the H409/H410 fee codes for this work?

Non-clinical planning, administrative, and leadership activities relating to COVID-19 vaccination services performed at vaccination sites are eligible for payment through the H409/H410 fee codes when those services are coordinated by a hospital or by a PHU.

Q9. Will the ministry’s direction, as provided in the memorandum of January 15, 2021, change if circumstances arise where sessional remuneration may be appropriate in other circumstances?

The primary purpose of the ministry’s memorandum was to advise hospitals and PHUs of the mechanisms by which physicians may be eligible for payment for the H409/H410 Sessional fee codes for services rendered at their vaccination sites. The memorandum reflects the ministry’s direction at the time of dissemination.

The ministry will continue to review the changing circumstances associated with COVID-19 to ensure that the province remains ready to respond to the evolving needs of the pandemic.