

mcp newsletter

October 21, 2024

24-15

TO: FEE-FOR-SERVICE PSYCHIATRISTS

RE: FEE-FOR-SERVICE PSYCHIATRY BONUS PROGRAMS

This newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of all Fee-For-Service (FFS) Psychiatry bonus programs currently offered by the Department of Health and Community Services.

Programs:

- 1. 20% FFS Psychiatry Premium Bonus:** This rural psychiatry premium bonus was negotiated in consultation with the NLMA and introduced in 1995. This premium aims to enhance the retention of FFS psychiatrists in rural NL Health Services facilities. Key details include:
 - **Eligibility:** Only rural psychiatrists affiliated with NL Health Services facilities may apply. The Senior Medical Director of the respective Zone must confirm bonus period worked and submit requests for approval to medservicesprograms@gov.nl.ca.
 - **Bonus Amount:** Approved FFS psychiatrists will receive a 20% bonus on the net amount paid by MCP for the previous year's services.
 - **Payment Schedule:** Psychiatrists receive their bonus following their anniversary date of their entry into service. Continuation of this bonus is subject to annual approval.
- 2. FFS Psychiatry Consultation Bonus Program:** The Department of Health and Community Services consulted with the NLMA regarding the allocation of Clinical Stabilization Fund (CSF) funding to FFS Psychiatrists under the 2009-13 Memorandum of Agreement. It was jointly proposed that CSF funding be utilized to establish a Consultation Bonus for FFS Psychiatry. The Consultation Bonus policy was outlined in MCP Newsletter 16-05 dated June 8, 2016 ([LINK](#)). This Newsletter further clarifies the Consultation Bonus' payment details and eligibility criteria and includes the application (the Medical Coverage Cooperation Agreement) to be submitted to medservicesprograms@gov.nl.ca. This program runs from September 1 to August 31 annually.

Bonuses under this program are awarded to FFS psychiatrists who reach specific consultation benchmarks, and who participate in an organized model of service delivery as determined in collaboration with the NL Health Services in their geographic area. Bonuses are calculated and paid on an annual basis. Bonus amounts will be calculated by determining the total number of consultations (fee codes 101, 201, 301, 401, 402, 501 and virtual code 253) per year conducted by physicians, as set out in the following table:

Total New Consults Per Year (101, 201, 253, 301, 401, 402, 501)	Bonus Amount
1 - 50	\$0
51 - 75	\$7,500
76 - 100	\$10,000
101 - 125	\$12,500
126 - 150	\$20,000
151 +	\$25,000

Note: Since the introduction of this bonus program, two additional consultation fee codes have been implemented - fee code 501 (telemedicine) and 253 (virtual). The billings of these fee codes (per Psychiatrist) are included in the calculation of total new consults per year.

3. **\$170,000 Annual Funding for Psychiatry Consultants:** Through the established methodology used during the term of the 2013-2017 MOA, and in accordance with Article 15.01(v) of the 2017-2023 MOA ([LINK](#)), the \$170,000 funding commitment for FFS Psychiatrists from the former Clinical Stabilization Fund continues to be allocated annually. This is allocated in addition to funding for which Maritime Weighted Parity is achieved.

Questions relating to the content of this newsletter should be directed to
MedServicesPrograms@gov.nl.ca