

Reducing the administrative burden of paperwork on physicians:

OMA Forms Committee update



The OMA Forms Committee serves as a forum for physicians to identify, discuss and scrutinize new and existing forms requiring completion by a physician, and represents the interests of all members in striving to reduce this administrative burden.

The Committee is acutely aware of the contribution that paperwork makes to physician burnout, and we continue our efforts to address this issue.

All forms requiring physician completion may be considered by the Committee, including those originating with the government, its agencies, the insurance industry or third parties.

The Committee currently provides the OMA with input on specific forms, often in consultation with OMA Sections, Assemblies and individual members. With regards to government forms, feedback and recommendations are then presented to the Joint OMA-Ministry of Health Forms Committee for further discussion and action. Current Committee members are:

- Dr. Ken Arnold (Chair)
- Dr. Debbie Dyke
- Dr. Scott Elliott
- Dr. Jane Purvis

The OMA Forms Committee has also been consulting with and advocating for members with external stakeholders, including other ministries (e.g., the Ministry of Transportation [MTO], Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services [MCCSS]), the federal

government (e.g., Canada Revenue Agency [CRA]), municipalities (e.g., City of Toronto), as well as the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB), Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA).

Undervalued and unremunerated government form fees are important issues. The Committee feels that addressing any one of these will have a positive impact on patient care and physician well-being.

The Forms Committee has met five

“The OMA Forms Committee strives to reduce the amount of unnecessary and burdensome paperwork on physicians in order to increase patient access to care, and facilitate an improvement to the provision of health care delivery in Ontario.”

In recent years, the Committee has advocated for the introduction of fees for completion of the Ministry of Health Out-of-Country forms and in support of the Ontario Disability Support Program's (ODSP) streamlined medical review process, where four new fee codes (K057, K058, K059, K060) for physician services were introduced in Appendix F of the OHIP Schedule of Benefits.

times in 2019 and has dealt with the following issues:

- Reviewed and provided feedback on the new Cancer Care Ontario Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) form.
- Met with WSIB and provided detailed feedback to the WSIB on the Cannabis Initial Assessment form (0210A).
- Provided further feedback to refine MTO's Medical Condition Report

form #5108E.

- Continuing discussions with MTO regarding the review of updated versions of Medical Condition Specific forms (total of 10) that are routinely sent to physicians when additional information is requested following the completion of the MTO Medical Condition Report. An estimated 61,000 of these forms are processed by MTO on a yearly basis.
- Participated in telephone interviews conducted by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) regarding the Disability Tax Credit Certificate (T2201E) discussing form formatting and content issues.
- Is in discussion with Canadian Medical Association (CMA) regarding the Canada Pension Plan application form and other federal forms.
- Started discussions with Canadian Health & Life Insurance Association (CHLIA) on designing a template for a standardized short-term disability form to be used by insurance companies.
- Performed investigations and provided feedback to members with queries regarding the completion and payment of government and third-party related forms.
- Provided feedback to the Uninsured Services Committee regarding suggested fees for forms listed in the OMA Physician's Guide to Uninsured Services.
- Continuing to advocate for appropriate fees for form completion.
- In the process of developing a "Forms Committee" designated web page on the OMA website.

The Committee will continue to review forms to ensure simplicity, consistency, to minimize legal jeopardy and to address the conversion of paper forms to digital. We will strive to reduce the amount of unnecessary and burdensome paperwork in order to increase patient access to care, and facilitate an improvement to the provision of health care delivery in Ontario.

The OMA Forms Committee welcomes member feedback. If you have any issues you would like to put forward to the Committee, please contact forms@oma.org.

OMA Forms Committee – At a Glance

The OMA Forms Committee represents the interests of all members in seeking to reduce the amount of unnecessary paperwork and administrative burden on physicians, as well as increasing patient access to care, and facilitating an improvement to the provision of health care delivery in the province.

Recently, the Committee advocated for the introduction of form fees in support of the Ontario Disability Support Program's (ODSP) streamlined medical review process, and four new fee codes for physician services were introduced to the OHIP Schedule of Benefits. The Forms Committee has met five times in 2019 and has dealt with the following issues:

- The new CCO Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) form
- WSIB Cannabis Initial Assessment form (0210A)
- MTO's Medical Condition Report form and 10 updated versions of MTO's Medical Condition Specific forms
- The Canadian Revenue Agency to discuss formatting and content issues regarding the Disability Tax Credit Certificate
- The CMA regarding the Canada Pension Plan application form and other federal forms
- Canadian Health & Life Insurance Association on designing a template for a standardized short-term disability insurance form
- Perform investigations and provide feedback to member queries on the completion and payment of government and third-party related forms
- Continue to advocate for appropriate fees for form completion

The Committee continues to review forms to ensure simplicity, consistency, to minimize legal jeopardy, and to address the conversion of paper forms to digital. For more information or to provide feedback, please contact forms@oma.org. ■

ADVERTISEMENT

1/4 Page