

Referral Process Education Session

Presented by Dr. Gregory, Chair of the Consultation Working Group and Tariff Committee

The following outlines the key themes from the Referral Process Education Session on August 11th, 2022. Please note there have been *no changes* to any of the rules in the payment schedule. The intent of this session was to clarify the current referral process structure outlined in the MSC Payment Schedule.

When can a specialist bill for a new consultation?

- The specialist must accept a *new* referral in order to bill MSP for a new consultation.
 - Example: If a specialist recommends that a patient receive annual specialty review, then in order for the specialist to book and bill a new consultation for that case they will need to receive and accept a new referral from a referring practitioner.
- Specialists can bill MSP for specialty follow up fees for as long as they deem necessary.
 - Example: The specialist has the option to bill an annual visit as a specialty follow up fee if they have not received and accepted a new referral.
- Please see R8, R14, C1, C6, C9, on the [FAQ webpage](#).

Can a specialist see a patient without a referral?

- Yes. Without a referral the specialist has the option to bill MSP for a non-referred (FP) visit and bill the patient up to the difference between that MSP fee and the specialist's consultation fee.
- Please see C3, C5 on the [FAQ webpage](#).

Can a specialist who provides longitudinal care bill for specialist follow up sessions?

- Specialists have the option to discharge the patient from their care when appropriate. If the referring practitioner then believes another consultation is medically necessary, the specialist's practice may reasonably request a new referral before booking the service.
- There is no rule stating that consultants may never discharge their patient.
- See R7, R8, R10, R14, C15 on the [FAQ webpage](#).

How is a consultation billed if the referring MD has retired/deceased/moved out of province?

- Use MSP code #99957 for the "referred-from" field in the claim – "referral by retired/deceased/moved out of province physician".
- Please see G5 on the [FAQ webpage](#).

Is there a time limit for how long you can bill follow up sessions from one referral?

- There is no time limit. Specialists can bill MSP their specialty follow up fees for as long as they deem necessary.
- Please see C15 on the [FAQ webpage](#).

Can a specialist bill MSP for another consultation for a new diagnosis without a new referral?

- No, specialists cannot bill a consultation fee for a new diagnosis without a new referral from a referring practitioner.
- Please see *Clarification A* on the [FAQ webpage](#).

Please refer to the [Consultations, Referrals and Re-Referrals](#) webpage on the Doctors of BC website for additional clarifications and FAQs.

Please contact economics@doctorsofbc.ca if you have any questions.