

SSC Fees Initiative

INITIATIVE BACKGROUND:

SSC introduced the suite of SSC Fees in 2010 to help make it easier for specialists to deliver care and for patients to access it.

\$20M

Budget for 2018/19

OBJECTIVE:

Through compensation for specialists, the SSC Fees aim to increase their capacity to provide well-coordinated and timely care to patients and to consult other clinicians on complex cases.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

Fees offered under the SSC Fee portfolio¹ include:

1. Specialist Advice Fee:

This fee is used to compensate specialist to consult with GPs, other specialists or allied health care providers in order to replace the need for a specialist to see the patient in person. This fee includes urgent specialist advice (response within 2 hrs.), specialist advice for patient management (response in one week), and email advice for patient management (response in one week).

2. Multidisciplinary Case Conferencing:

This fee is used to compensate specialists for meetings to discuss and plan medical management of patients with conditions that are too complex for one individual specialist to deal with.

3. Patient Management/Follow up:

This fee compensates specialists to provide real time or email follow up advice to save the patient from needing to see the physician in person.

4. Group Medical Visit:

This fee compensates specialists to provide medical care in a group setting.

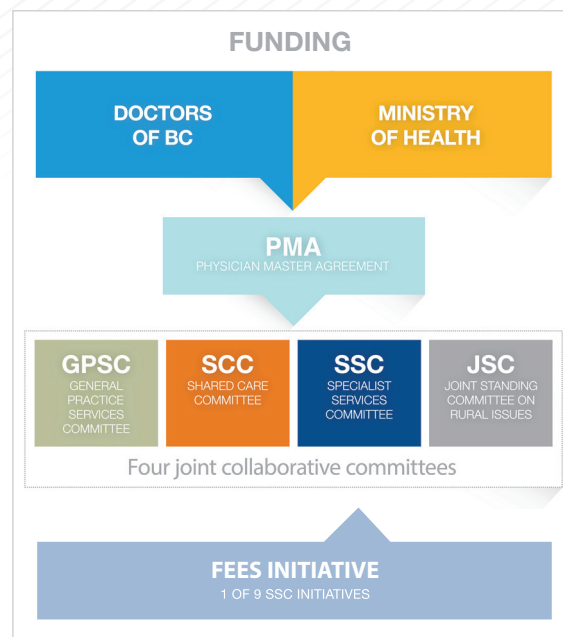
5. Patient Care Plans:

Specialist Discharge Care Plan for Complex Patients:

This fee is intended to support clinical coordination for effective patient discharge of patients with complex conditions.

Specialist Advance Care Planning Discussion:

This fee is intended to facilitate a specialist's discussion with a patient about advance care planning based on the patient's beliefs, values and wishes for his/her future health care.



BENEFITS:

WHO	HOW
All Specialist Physicians	All specialist physicians who provide services that meet the billing criteria as set out in the SSC Fee Guide will receive compensation for these services.
Patients	Depending on the fee used by the Specialist, patients can, for example, avoid unnecessary referrals or receive follow-up care from their physician. Patients could also benefit if their Specialist provides a Discharge Plan or works with them on Advance Care Planning.

¹ In order to appropriately bill SSC Fees, providers must thoroughly review information contained in the SSC Fee Guide - www.doctorsofbc.ca/member-publications/the-bcma-guide-fees/section/ss

FAQs

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS:

The SSC Fee initiative has ongoing achievements. Through the use of the Fees, specialists have reported better facilitation of care, resulting in avoidance of unnecessary referrals and tests. The SSC Fees are used by almost all specialty sections to treat patients of all ages across BC.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who makes funding decisions for this initiative?

Funding for SSC Fees are based on a fixed budget, and must be managed annually by the Specialist Services Committee. While they are processed through the Medical Services Plan as are all other fees, they are managed by the SSC rather than the Tariff Committee. A working group comprised of Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC physician representatives provide recommendations to the SSC on the fees.

Who is eligible to bill the SSC Fees?

Any Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) specialist is eligible to bill the SSC fees.

How does SSC determine which fees to fund?

The 2011 Physician Master Agreement provided the initial funding and mandate for the SSC to develop the majority of the current fees now in place. Since that time, the fees have been modified based on consultations with sections, evaluation data and the need to remain within a fixed budget.

Is there a process for a specialist section to propose a fee?

Under the Physician Master Agreement between the Government, the Medical Services Commission (MSC) and Doctors of BC, additions, deletions, fee changes or other modifications to the MSC Payment Schedule are made by the MSC, upon recommendation by the Tariff Committee and Board of Directors. If Doctors of BC and MSP agree with the proposed modifications, the MSC will implement them. If the parties disagree, the MSC will determine the matter if requested by one of the parties.

Disclaimer: The information provided here is simplified for understanding purposes and cannot be used to claim compensation. For detailed information on SSC fees, please download the SSC Fee guide from the following link: www.doctorsofbc.ca/sites/default/files/2017_email_fee_guide_process_booklet_id_107444.pdf

Initiative Lead: Laura Anderson
Email: landerson@doctorsofbc.ca
Visit our website: sscbc.ca
Initiative webpage: sscbc.ca/fees

Fee Inquiries:
Lea Harth
Fee Guide Advisor
604-638-2827
lharth@doctorsofbc.ca