

The President's Letter

Dr. G.N. (Gerry) Kiefer



May 15, 2007

Dear Member:

One of the first priorities with the new fiscal agreement is to determine the allocation of the increases – 4.5% on October 1, 2006 and 4.5% on April 1, 2007 – to the Schedule of Medical Benefits. In my April 13 *President's Letter*, I outlined the trilateral process and steps required to allocate these funds.

As outlined, the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) Board of Directors met April 20 where it discussed and established AMA's recommendations for macro-allocation, which includes funds allocated to specific items and to sections. (The funds allocated to sections are then "micro-allocated" by sections.)

Based on board direction, AMA representatives then took the recommendations to the trilateral Physician Services Committee. Following considerable discussion, and with the further involvement of the board through three AMA teleconferences, the representatives of the three parties (Alberta Health and Wellness, AMA and the regional health authorities) have now agreed on all items for the macro- and micro-allocations.

On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank section presidents and fee representatives for their efforts in outlining the targeted items they proposed for macro-allocation, and the rates, rule changes and new fee items they have identified as section priorities for micro-allocation (funds allocated by sections).

This allowed the AMA to be well prepared and to have AMA's work on allocation completed for the board and Physician Services Committee meetings. Within the trilateral process, the AMA continues to advocate for the best interests of physicians and for timely decision-making.

When the Physician Services Committee has finalized the allocation, we will update you with details and timelines.

Yours truly,

G.N. (Gerry) Kiefer, MD, FRCSC
President