



The President's Letter

Dr. Noel W. Grisdale



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Dear Member:

The new Performance and Diligence Indicators (PDI) program has been launched with family physicians, who have until October 14 to sign up.

Should physicians choose to participate, the PDI program offers recognition for meeting certain indicators of exemplary care for our patients. It recognizes that physicians put Patients First®.

Established in the 2008 Amending Financial Agreement to the trilateral Master Agreement, the PDI Fund provides payments to family physicians who meet specific indicators in the care of their patients.

The 2008 agreement states the PDI program “will provide payments to individual family physicians, in and out of primary care networks, who meet specific performance and/or diligence indicators that deliver substantive clinical value.” The agreement also sets out that the program will include consultation with the multi-stakeholder Comprehensive Family Practice Strategy Steering Committee.

The trilateral Primary Care Initiative (PCI) program has responsibility for developing and rolling out this initiative to all family physicians in both fee-for-service and alternate relationship plans (ARP) payment systems. Participation is voluntary.

A trilateral PDI working group, which reports to the PCI committee, has developed the initial parameters for the program, to be implemented in two phases.

Phase I: 2009-10 fiscal year

- Physicians will establish validated patient lists (VPLs).
 - Physicians sign and submit consent forms requesting Alberta Health and Wellness' data on their patient lists. This step is to be completed by October 14.

- Alberta Health and Wellness will provide consenting physicians with a list of patients, which the physician will then reconcile against their own office patient list.
- Then, with each patient on the list, the physician confirms that he/she is the patient's most responsible physician.
- The PDI program will provide a fee of \$3.50 to the physician for successfully completing each of these steps, for a total of \$7 per patient, if the VPL is created before February 26, 2010. This fee will compensate physicians for the administrative time and effort to complete phase I.
- If the program happens to be oversubscribed, there may be a need for a lottery (randomized selection process) to determine which physicians can participate in 2009-10.

Phase II: 2010-11

- The PDI program will introduce clinical indicators.
- Specific clinical indicators and targets, as well as compensation will be determined and other details of the program will be fleshed out in the coming months.

An information package with details of the program and consent forms has been mailed to all family physicians and the same information has been sent electronically to family physicians with email addresses. Family physicians who wish to participate in the program should check their email and watch for the package in their mail, and contact 780.488.4350 or toll-free 1.866.714.5724, if the information does not arrive.

We look forward to the implementation of the PDI program.

Yours truly,

Noel W. Grisdale, MD, CCFP
President