



The President's Letter

Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick



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Dear Member:

In my November 16, 2007, *President's Letter*, I informed Alberta Medical Association (AMA) members that the Rural, Remote, Northern Program (RRNP) was still subject to some revisions. Those revisions are now complete and as I related to you in March, Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) is on track to issue RRNP payments in May.

With final details reviewed, I am pleased to let you know that the final calculations resulted in the rates increasing significantly for the RRNP fee premium payments for each community. This complies with the original intent for the payments to provide a 70/30 split on the premium/flat payments.

The two RRNP payment streams are:

- 1. RRNP fee premium payments applied automatically to claims for every health service** provided by any physician in an eligible community. This RRNP premium payment is a percentage added to your fee-for-service, reciprocal, Business Costs Program and/or alternate relationship plan (ARP) payments. The percentage is based on the total points assigned to the community.
- 2. An additional flat payment** made to a physician who provides services and resides in the community. To qualify, your annual income from providing services in that community must be greater than \$50,000. This flat payment varies by community and is calculated as a dollar-amount per point.

AHW will be issuing a bulletin outlining all the details on the RRNP. In the meantime, members may check the list of communities with their corresponding fee premium and flat payments, as well as additional RRNP information by logging into the AMA website at www.albertadoctors.org/FeesNegotiations/RuralRemoteNorthernProgram.

Yours truly,

Darryl D. LaBuick, MD, CCFP
President