



SGP BULLETIN

March 29, 2018

Income Equity Initiative Update

Dear Family Physician,

As Dr. Cooper discussed in his [post Representative Forum President's Letter](#), the work of the Income Equity Initiative will continue. As you may have heard, there are some particular challenges and lots of work to be done.

This work includes completing the studies around overhead, hours worked and training and career length. These studies, along with other factors, will be taken into consideration when calculating income equity. You may have already received an e-mail requesting your participation in the overhead study. I would strongly encourage as many of you as possible to take the time to complete this survey. I would also appreciate any feedback you may have regarding the survey.

I would also encourage you to take the time to look over the [Income Equity Initiative document](#) (member login required) and become familiar with the process involved. Although the AMA has dedicated considerable resources to the Income Equity Initiative in order to be as thorough and informed as possible, it is not perfect. This is why the process will be open, transparent and will be continually reviewed and revised. I would also reiterate that income equity is only one of several pieces that make up the overall physician compensation strategy.

Along with the considerable work that needs to be done on this initiative, we also face other important challenges on this front. We are still unsure how government will respond/react to this process; particularly in light of our current challenging negotiations. Additionally, there are sections within the AMA that may mount legal challenges and potentially create other tactics that are meant to delay or even halt this equity initiative.

While the Section of General Practice supports taking the appropriate amount of time to make sure this initiative is done properly, we will not support tactics that are meant to derail or stall the process.

Income equity is no doubt challenging, but it is NOT a process to divide GPs and specialists. It is a process to achieve income equity amongst ALL specialties. Remember, a majority of specialists at the Representative Forum support the Income Equity Initiative and the RF voted strongly in favour of moving forward with the work. Income equity is a

sensitive and difficult issue and we must work collaboratively – as a profession – to ensure success.

I always welcome your feedback. Please e-mail at gppres@albertadoctors.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. LaBuick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick
President - AMA Section of General Practice

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