



SGP BULLETIN

November 21, 2016

SOMB Rules Initiative - Capping

Dear Family Physician Colleague,

We appreciate all of the feedback we have received about the Batch 1 Schedule of Medical Benefits (SOMB) Rules Initiative changes. At the upcoming December 1st Section of General Practice (SGP) Executive meeting, we will be finalizing the SGP's recommendations on potential Batch 2 rule changes for consideration by the AMA Ad-Hoc Committee. We are aware that Alberta Health is interested in capping time-based modifiers, however, as stated in our [November 2nd](#) and [November 16th](#) Bulletins, "Suggestions for capping time-based modifiers are not supported by the SGP Executive or the AMA Ad-Hoc Committee". Capping time-based modifiers does not support the Patient's Medical Home and is counter to the concept of comprehensive care as it is a disincentive to spending time with patients. However, while capping time-based modifiers is not supported, the SGP Executive acknowledges that capping in some form is needed given the current fiscal and political environment.

On June 3, 2015, SGP sent out a [survey](#) with a single question – "The maximum number of visits per day per physician should be...?". As a result of the positive feedback we received through the survey, in late 2015 the SGP developed and shared a discussion paper with you that outlined a proposal for capping direct face-to-face patient encounters, along with a survey to gauge your thoughts about the structure of the capping proposal. Responses from that survey indicated significant support for the concept of capping in principle. We also received a lot of useful comments from the survey and, more recently, as part of the SOMB Rules Initiative process. Thus, the SGP Executive is considering reviewing - and possibly simplifying - a capping proposal to contribute to Batch 2. Capping visits is a key initiative in our *Primary Care Compensation Strategy* since it supports appropriate time with patients and sets the stage for improved clinical care (AIM, Advanced Access).

As the SGP Executive prepares for the Batch 2 discussions on December 1st, we welcome your input around a capping proposal (i.e. a daily cap rate, discounted rates if exceeding the cap, applicable locations, exceptions, etc.) to assist in these challenging discussions.

If you have any suggestions or comments about capping, or any other Batch 2 issues, please visit the [SOMB Reform page](#) on the AMA website. Please remember that in order

to meet the tight timelines we are working under, we are asking family physicians to give their input by November 27, 2016.

We appreciate your input and your continued support.

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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