

**From:** [Debbie B. Kuss](#) on behalf of [Christine Molnar](#)  
**Subject:** Special Bulletin: Extension for MLR withdrawals  
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*Bulletin distributed on behalf of AMA President Dr. Christine Molnar:*

As you know, government has indicated that they will be proceeding with the reduction to the Medical Liability Reimbursement program outlined in the Physician Funding Framework. The amount of funding available for reimbursement of Canadian Medical Protective Association dues will be roughly 50% of the total cost of the program. We continue to express our extreme concerns to government about this and have suggested alternative ways to capture savings; however, we wanted to let members know where things stand as of today.

Although we believe this reduction will have a significant impact on physicians and is the wrong place to save money, please be aware that in the near term a formula will need to be developed for distributing the reduced funding in a way that best balances several competing objectives including:

- ☐ Fairness to physicians - a fair distribution across all physicians.
- ☐ Value for patients:
  - Avoid or mitigate disenfranchisement of specialists to allow for continued provision of high-risk services to patients (e.g., obstetrics).
  - Value for patients - avoid or mitigate disenfranchisement of family physicians to allow for continued provision of specialized services to patients (e.g., family physicians providing obstetrical services or shifts in the emergency department).

Not all objectives will be adequately satisfied with “50 cent dollars” and a balance will need to be struck.

We know the lack of certainty about how much your MLR reimbursement will be is extremely concerning. This is particularly true for the thousands of physicians who participate in the early reimbursement process and are scheduled to have their annual CMPA dues withdrawn on May 1.

**Therefore, we have made arrangements with the CMPA to delay the May 1 withdrawal for up to two months (to July 1) to provide some additional time for program details to be confirmed. If you are signed up for the early reimbursement process with the CMPA, the delay will occur automatically. If you have questions about your reimbursement status, you may call the CMPA at 1.800.267.6522.**

The AMA thanks the CMPA for their flexibility as we deal with this situation.

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**Christine P. Molnar, MD, FRCPC**

President

Alberta Medical Association

12230 106 Ave NW | Edmonton AB T5N 3Z1

Phone: 780.482.2626 | Fax: 780.482.5445

[www.albertadoctors.org](http://www.albertadoctors.org)

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