

## Memorandum

**FROM:** Management Committee

**TO:** Physician Resource Planning Stakeholders

**DATE:** July 6, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Physician Resource Planning Regulatory Amendments

We are pleased to update you on recent events regarding physician resource planning.

At its July 4th meeting, Cabinet approved regulatory amendments to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Regulation and the Claims for Benefits Regulation to set the direction for the implementation of physician resource planning in Alberta pursuant to the Alberta Medical Association agreement. The amendments will:

- Authorize the Minister to create a formal Physician Resource Planning Committee (PRPC) with representation from government, the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health Services and other stakeholders to provide advice on the appropriate supply and distribution of physicians in Alberta. This work will include recommending to the Minister the number of additional physicians needed each year; and
- Formalize existing policy to require all physicians to have a practitioner identification number in order to bill the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for providing insured medical services.

As you know, the recent amending agreement outlined our commitment to establish a physician resource planning committee and develop a needs-based physician resource plan. These regulatory amendments set the foundation for fulfilling those commitments.

Based on the feedback government received from stakeholders during the past few months, the original proposal to place mobility conditions on new physicians' practitioner identification numbers has been withdrawn. The amended regulations that establish physician resource planning do not include any mobility restrictions on new physicians.

Therefore, PRPC member organizations will be responsible for implementing changes collectively, and within their individual authority, to achieve the number of additional physicians established by the Minister and other physician resource planning objectives. These objectives will include identifying where physicians are most needed in Alberta.



The proposed timeline is as follows:

- July 5 – Regulatory amendments come into force;
- July/August – Physician Resource Planning Committee established by Ministerial Order and membership confirmed;
- August – Committee starts developing advice on the number of additional physicians needed in Alberta for 2018-19;
- January, 2018 – Health Minister receives advice from the Physician Resource Planning Committee and issues a Ministerial Order establishing the number of additional physicians needed in Alberta for the next fiscal year; and
- January to March, 2018 – Stakeholders take action within the authority of their organizations to implement physician resource planning and reach the number of additional physicians set out in the Ministerial Order for 2018-19.

We thank you for your contributions to physician resource planning discussions to date. The next step will be to formally establish the PRPC by Ministerial Order under the amended regulation. We will be contacting stakeholder organizations shortly to inform them of the process for the Minister to appoint representatives to the committee.

A teleconference to discuss the amendments will be scheduled with you in the near future.

Please feel free to contact us, or Shawn Knight, Executive Director of Health Human Resources Planning and Strategy at [shawn.knight@gov.ab.ca](mailto:shawn.knight@gov.ab.ca) or 780-422-0981 if you have any questions.

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