



PROPOSED PROVINCIAL FEES

FOR NON INSURED SERVICES, PREVIOUSLY INSURED SERVICES AND INCIDENTAL FEES

Depending on complexity, an hourly rate may be substituted for the suggested fees

Suggested rates are net of applicable taxes

1. Reports and non-insured services

(excluding the exam)

Certificate required by an employer/school \$25

- State of health
- Absence from work or school
- Return to work

Medical report on printed form

- Disability insurance \$65 to \$125
- Unemployment insurance \$35
- RRQ (Québec Pension Board) \$125 to \$255

SAAQ Reports

(Depending on complexity, an hourly rate may be substituted for the suggested fees)

- Driver's licence \$50 to \$125
- Rapport médical initial \$40
- Rapport médical d'évaluation \$125
- Rapport médical d'évolution \$125
- Rapport médical des séquelles \$75 to \$125
- Other reports \$20 plus hourly rate

Missed appointment \$30

Telephone consultation \$25

Prescription renewal without medical visit \$20

Report required for the homologation of a mandate given in anticipation of incapacity \$480

2. Administrative services required by a third party or not related to obtaining insured services from a physician

- Photocopies, first page* \$10
- Additional pages \$0.50 each
- Fax \$20
- Long distance calls \$5 plus cost
- Courier services \$25 plus cost
- Résumé of patient file hourly rate
- Transmission of copies or documents for a patient† \$5 to \$10

3. Non-insured medical service, (including consultation or examination of a non-resident patient, a pre-employment exam or an exam performed for an insurer) as well as services related to such services

- Fees for exam \$70 to \$230
- Non-insured therapeutic or diagnostic service (wound repair, reduction, immobilisation) \$70 to \$265
- Evaluation of patient's fitness to drive a motor vehicle \$120 to \$165
- Exam required by a camp, a sports club, a school, a university \$100
- Exam required by an insurance company (exam to assess eligibility) \$200
- Pre-employment or in course of employment exam \$200
- Blood sampling \$30 to \$60
- Transportation of biological specimens \$20
- Résumé of patient file hourly rate

4. Fees incidental to an insured service

(fixed by regulation)

Fees for transportation of biological samples

- without a blood sample up to \$5
- with a blood sample up to \$15

5. Hourly rate

- Medico-administrative activities \$255
- Medico-legal activities \$400
- Expertise (prior agreement required) \$450

* This rate applies when making the copies involves pulling the chart and includes the cost of transmitting the copies by mail when necessary. When the chart does not have to be pulled and the transmission is not by mail, the rate for additional pages applies from the first page.

† This rate applies to copies the transmission required to obtain insured services, such as the transmission of patient chart notes to a new physician, when the patient asks his existing physician to transmit the documents for him.

The patient who believes that the amounts billed after December 6th, 2015 are for services insured under the Health Insurance Act can, within five years of payment, make a written claim for reimbursement to the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. When it is of the opinion that the amounts billed are not allowed, the Régie reimburses the patient and recovers the same amount from the professional or third party who billed for the services.

COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS

VALIDITY OF RATES

In the event that the College of Physicians is required to evaluate whether fees charged to a patient respect its policies, it has indicated that it will evaluate all relevant aspects; the fees proposed in this guide are simply one element among many.

These rates are hence suggested and you may want to adjust them to respect ethical constraints and in light of your local reality.

BILLING AND POSTING RATES

- In a private office, the participating physician or physician who has withdrawn must post, in view of the public in his waiting room, the price of services, supplies and incidentals that are prescribed and that can be claimed from an insured person, as well as that of services that are not insured or that are reputed not to be insured services, and related supplies and incidentals.
- No other amount than those posted may be claimed from an insured person.
- When payment is claimed from an insured person, an itemised bill must be provided, indicating the amount claimed for each service, supply or incidental service as well as each medical service that is not insured or reputed not to be insured.
- The posted fee schedule and each bill for services must refer to the recourse created by the first paragraph of section 22.0.1 of the Health Insurance Act allowing a person to request the reimbursement of amounts claimed without right.
- Failure to respect one of these obligations may result in the imposition of a fine on the physician or third party.

1. Non-insured services

■ Telephone consultations

Before incurring costs, patients should be informed that a fee will be charged.

■ Renewal of prescription without a medical visit

Prescriptions should generally be made after an assessment by the physician. Depending on the type of prescription and the circumstances, a recent exam may be a sufficient basis for renewal. The renewal without a new assessment may be reasonable if an office visit is scheduled shortly, for a known and non-urgent condition where, for example, interruption of drug therapy may harm the patient. A physician must be especially careful when prescribing psychoactive substances without the benefit of a fresh assessment.

■ Missed appointment

In order to bill, the physician must:

- Have advised the patient of his policy and of the amount charged;
- Provide an exception for unavoidable circumstances causing the patient to miss the appointment;
- Allow cancellation with 24 hours' notice.

The patient can require the physician to demonstrate that he has suffered a loss of income and that he was available at the time of the scheduled appointment.

4. Incidental fees

- We remind you that you must always inform your patient before incurring fees for billable services.
- The law provides that no payment may be charged to or received from any insured person, directly or indirectly, for costs incurred for insured services provided by a health professional who is subject to the application of an agreement or by a professional who has withdrawn. Such costs include those related to
 - (1) the operation of a private health facility or a specialized medical centre within the meaning of the Act respecting health services and social services;
 - (2) services, supplies, medications and equipment required to provide an insured service, as well as to perform diagnostic tests related to such a service
- Such costs do not include those related to services not considered insured that are required before, during or after the provision of an insured service
- CNESST: Section 194 of the Act Respecting Industrial Accidents and Occupational Diseases prohibits any person from claiming an amount from a worker for any medical aid benefit covered by the CNESST. Currently, some regional offices of the CNESST nonetheless reimburse workers for the cost of medical services they have paid for, more often when the amounts involved are small and they were paid to a physician with a low volume of CNESST activities.

5. Hourly rates

- **Medico-administrative activities** Hourly rate: \$255
Time spent managing a patient's file, either at the request of a third party or not related to obtaining insured services from a physician.
e.g. drafting a file résumé.
Note that the Quebec College of Physicians does not allow billing for the sorting of relevant elements from a chart when required to produce copies in response to a request by a patient or a person acting for a patient.
- **Medico-legal activities** Hourly rate: \$400
Time spent preparing a file subject to litigation or liable to such, including court appearances, if necessary.
e.g. compiling factual information from a file or testifying to factual issues in the context of a divorce, a dismissal or a challenge to a will.
- **Expertise:** Hourly rate: \$450
Time spent providing professional services as an expert.
e.g. drafting an opinion, Court appearance

A prior agreement regarding fees is required in order to bill for these services. Note that a patient that disagrees with the rate charged for a professional service provided by a physician can call upon the procedure for the conciliation of accounts of physicians offered by the syndic of the College of physicians.

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