

mcp newsletter

August 25, 2023

23-10

TO: ALL PHYSICIANS

RE: MEDICAL EXAMS FOR DRIVERS 75 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

As part of Budget 2023, and in consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, the Department of Health and Community Services is introducing a new fee code for the administration of medical examinations for drivers 75 years of age and older. **Driver medical exams (DMEs) are only insured when provided based on existing age requirements. For more information, please see <https://www.gov.nl.ca/motorregistration/existing-drivers/driver-records-and-suspended-drivers/medical-standards-and-mandatory-reporting/>. DMEs required for any other reason besides age, including medical conditions, or additional medical exams requested by Motor Registration, remain non-insured services.**

Officials with Motor Registration are working on adding clarity to the letter generated to patients older than seventy-five years to indicate to them that the DME is required for age-related reasons only. In other words, the DME is only billable for classes 5, 6, and 8 licenses (non-commercial) and is not billable for requests for additional medical information issued by Motor Registration.

The following two new fee codes will be added to the Consultations and Visits section of the Medical Payment Schedule for Family Medicine in the Office (147), and Hospital Out-Patient and Emergency (447) settings:

147, 447 Driver medical examination of a patient who is 75 years of age or older, as required by Motor Registration for age (fee includes completion of any necessary documentation as per Section 3.3 of the MCP Medical Payment Schedule General Preamble) 100.00

The following language will be added to the MCP Medical Payment Schedule General Preamble:

7.9 Driver Medical Examination (DME): This service is payable when a patient is required, due to age only, to undergo a medical exam to obtain a class 5, 6 or 8 driver's licence.

A DME is payable only once per patient at age 75 and at age 80, and then every two years after the age of 80. A DME is billable for services provided within 90 days prior to the prescribed interval.

No premium codes are billable in addition to a DME.

If a consultant provides a DME for a patient, as required by Motor Registration because of age, the consultant should submit the claim for Independent Consideration (I.C.) at the Family Physician rate accompanied by a copy of the Medical Examination Report.

The documentation requirements for a DME must include a completed Medical Examination Report in addition to the applicable documentation requirements in Section 4.2.2. of the MCP Preamble. In other words, the medical examination report must contain the patient's name, MCP number, and date.

DMEs required for any other reason besides age, including medical conditions, or additional medical exams requested by Motor Registration remain non-insured services.

No other Consultation and Visits fee codes are billable by the same physician for the same patient on the same day as a DME is provided.

This fee code is available for DMEs provided on or after April 1, 2023.

Claims for services provided prior to today's date should be submitted by December 8, 2023 to avoid issues surrounding late claims. In such instances, **any claims for DMEs that are submitted ninety days after the service date should be submitted "IC". Comments must also be included on any claims submitted beyond 90 days after the date of the service to ensure payment. In the comments section on the late claim, physicians should write "late claim approved as per MCP Newsletter 23-10".** DMEs provided after today's date will be subject to the usual 90 day submission deadline.

A patient reimbursement program has also been established for any eligible DMEs charged directly to patients after April 1, 2023. Eligible patients will need to provide a receipt and submit this application: [Drivers-Medical-Examination-Reimbursement-Form.pdf \(gov.nl.ca\)](#). Please refer patient reimbursement inquiries **only** to driversmedicals@gov.nl.ca or the toll free number 1-833-864-0223.

Salaried physicians usually provide insured age-related DMEs during regularly scheduled clinic hours. Salaried physicians interested in providing additional insured after-hours

services above and beyond their regular duties should discuss this with their clinical leadership.

For further information regarding medical examinations and mandatory reporting, physicians may refer to <https://www.gov.nl.ca/motorregistration/existing-drivers/driver-records-and-suspended-drivers/medical-standards-and-mandatory-reporting/>.

Questions relating to this newsletter should be directed Dr. Colleen Crowther, Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1557 or by email at ColleenCrowther@gov.nl.ca.