

## mcp newsletter

November 16, 2023

23-20

**TO: ALL FEE-FOR-SERVICE PHYSICIANS****RE: REMINDER TO BILL MCP FOR INSURED DRIVER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS  
(ROUTINE DRIVER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR AGE ONLY)**

On August 25, 2023, MCP published billing information for two new fee codes to compensate family physicians for Driver Medical Examinations (DMEs) for patients who require a DME for age only. This applies to drivers seeking medicals based on age requirements of 75 years, 80 years, and every two years thereafter. DMEs required for any other reason besides age, including medical conditions, or additional medical exams requested by Motor Registration, remain non-insured services. DMEs are only billable for classes 5, 6, and 8 licences (non-commercial). For further information, please see [MCP newsletter 23-10](#) and <https://www.gov.nl.ca/motorregistration/existing-drivers/driver-records-and-suspended-drivers/medical-standards-and-mandatory-reporting/>. For billing non-insured services, please see the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association's Physicians' Guide to Non-Insured Services available at <https://nlma.nl.ca/site/uploads/2022/05/nlma-physicians-guide-to-non-insured-service-june-2018.pdf>.

In determining whether a DME represents an insured service, please consider the following:

- 1) **How old is the patient?** MCP does not accept billings for DMEs made before the age of 74 years, 9 months of age. Beginning 90 days prior to the patient's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, MCP will accept billings for DMEs for patients requiring them for routine medical exams for age. In other words, routine medical exams for age are those required for ages 75 and 80 years (but not for ages 76, 77, 78 and 79 years), and for every two years after the DME for age 80. MCP can accept billings for a routine medical for age as early as ninety days in advance of the prescribed age interval. Depending on the patient's situation, a routine medical for age may or may not coincide with the patient's exact birth date. Similarly, it may occur later than the prescribed two-year interval as per Motor Registration.

- 2) **Does this patient require the medical for a commercial licence?** If yes, this represents a non-insured service regardless of the driver's age and the patient can be charged for the service. DMEs are insured only for classes 5, 6, and 8, which are non-commercial licences.
- 3) **Is a patient requiring more than one DME than the prescribed intervals for age?** If so, one or more of these DMEs represent non-insured services and can be billed directly to the patient. For example, if a patient presents for a DME at 74 years, 11 months and then again within three months, and no further information is available, the second DME is considered a non-insured service and should be charged directly to the patient.

It is important that physicians identify insured routine medicals for age for drivers to the best of their ability. This helps ensure that patients are not charged for insured services, and that physicians are able to charge for non-insured services.

Questions relating to this newsletter should be directed to the Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1557 or by email at [AssistantMedicalDirector@gov.nl.ca](mailto:AssistantMedicalDirector@gov.nl.ca).