

USA Board-Certified Specialists – Billing Guidelines

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) sets the standards for specialty medical education in Canada and **certifies** qualifying specialists. The provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC) **licenses** specialist registrants, in nearly all cases according to their RCPSC certification(s).

In 2023 the CPSBC introduced a “USA certified” class which enables USA-trained physicians who are not eligible for full or provisional licensure in BC to practice without having to undergo further assessment or training. Physicians who have not qualified for or obtained RCPSC specialty certification but who hold American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification in Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine or Internal Medicine may be eligible for this registrant class.

Fee-for-Service Billing Guidelines for ABMS-certified Pediatricians and Internists

Public health insurance in BC is the Medical Services Plan (MSP). Fee-for-Service (FFS) physicians bill the MSP. The MSP pays all the physician costs of medically necessary insured physician services in accordance with the *Medicare Protection Act* and associated regulations.

The MSC Payment Schedule, also known as the “Fee Guide” contains the fee codes payable to enrolled physicians for insured medical services provided to eligible BC residents. Fees are mostly catalogued by specialty, with access to specific fees restricted by RCPSC-specialty registration. For example, consultation and other specialty-restricted fees are payable to physicians who are certified by, or are Fellows of the RCPSC, and are recognized as such by the CPSBC. **This does not include ABMS-certified physicians** as they do not hold RCPSC specialty certification.

For example: only RCPSC-certified Pediatricians, so registered by the CPSBC, may bill Pediatrics consultation fees and/or other specialty-restricted fee codes. Similarly, only RCPSC-certified and CPSBC-registered Internal Medicine physicians may bill Internal Medicine consultation fees and/or other specialty-restricted fee codes.

Currently there are no specific FFS or alternative funding compensation structures for ABMS in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics. **These physicians are currently eligible to bill consultation and visit fees only from the Family Medicine Payment Schedule. ABMS registrants may also bill the non-restricted procedural fees within the Payment Schedule where appropriate.**

Section D. 2. 2 of the General Preamble to the MSC Payment Schedule states the rules for consultations to be paid by MSP:

D. 2. 2. Restrictions

ii) For consultations and/or other specialty limited services to be paid by MSP, the medical practitioner rendering the service must be certified by or be a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and be so recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia. No other specialist qualifications will be recognized by MSP and payments for visits and examinations rendered by licensed physicians not so qualified will be made on the basis of fees listed in the Family Medicine Section of this MSC Payment Schedule.

Access to restricted fees in the Payment Schedule is based on the CPSBC registration. RCPSC certification is required to access Internal Medicine-restricted or Pediatrics-restricted fees.

An ABMS registrant may obtain RCPSC certification by several methods. ABMS registrants are encouraged to contact the RCPSC to learn specific requirements. Once RCPSC certification has been obtained and the CPSBC registration has been updated, the registrant will have access to the Internal Medicine / Pediatrics Payment Schedule as appropriate.

Fee-for-Service Billing Guidelines for ABMS-certified Emergency Physicians

In only this one case, the Payment Schedule requirements have been modified to allow all RCPSC EM registrants (5 years post-grad residency), CCFP-EM registrants (3 years post-grad residency training and certification), and American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) registrants (3 years post-grad residency training) full access to the Emergency Medicine Payment Schedule.

External Links:

College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC – USA Certified Class

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/current-registrants/registration-and-licensing/independent-practice/usa-certified>

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada – Service Centre & Contacts

<https://www.royalcollege.ca/en/about/contact-us>

Medical Services Plan

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp>

Medical Services Commission

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/colleges-boards-and-commissions/medical-services-commission>

Medicare Protection Act

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96286_01

Family Medicine Payment Schedule:

MSC Payment Schedule

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/msp/physicians/payment-schedules/msc-payment-schedule>

Doctors of BC Fee Guide (log in required)

<https://www.doctorsofbc.ca/managing-your-practice/compensation/fee-guide>