

OTN Fact Sheet for Physicians

An Overview:

How do physicians bill for OTN telemedicine consultations?

Physicians submit their bills for telemedicine consultations directly to the Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP).

Is telemedicine an insured service with OHIP?

No. Telemedicine is an uninsured service. Remuneration is provided through the provincial telemedicine program but billings are sent directly to OHIP. Patients do not have to pay for telemedicine services.

Why do physicians bill OHIP directly?

This procedure makes it easier for physicians to bill for telemedicine services and eliminates the need for a separate paper billing process to OTN. The common administrative approach is fair and encourages the use of telemedicine across Ontario.

What do I have to do?

Physicians must be registered as "telemedicine physicians" with OHIP before their claim is accepted. The following simple steps are required:

- Physicians must sign a registration form with OTN. This form, entitled OHIP Telemedicine Physician Registration Form, is similar to the original OHIP form signed by doctors at the start of their practice.
- Once the form has been received at OTN, OTN will submit it to OHIP to register the physician as a telemedicine physician.
- Once OHIP has processed the registration, a Registration Acknowledgement Letter will be sent to the physician from OTN. Detailed billing information will be included with this letter.

What elements are covered under the direct-to-OHIP billing arrangement?

The arrangement includes the following elements:

- sharing of telemedicine claims payment related data with MOHLTC and OTN for program planning purposes
- payment and reporting of telemedicine claims to the physician's group if the physician submits the claims through an OHIP group billing number
- disclosure of applicable telemedicine claims related date with the Workplace Safety Insurance Board by MOHLTC for program planning purposes
- recovery of any overpayment of telemedicine claims
- billing OHIP only when the consultant and patient are at OTN-certified sites