

February 22, 2022

Shelly D Hipson  
RR3  
Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Dear Shelly D Hipson:

**Re: You are entitled to the information you requested - 2022-00105-HEA**

The Department of Health and Wellness received your application for access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act) on January 21, 2022.

In your application, you requested a copy of the following records:

*3. Any records that shows the details on whether long term care facilities, nursing homes, hospitals and/or doctors get paid money for 1.) COVID-19 testing 2.) money for taking care of a COVID-19 patient 3.) money for a COVID death 4.) money for administering a COVID treatment protocol 5.) money for putting patients on a ventilator 6.) money for administering vaccines.*

*If this is not the proper department for this request, please forward it to the proper department.*

*(Date Range for Record Search: From 12/31/2019 To 01/19/2022)*

Responsive records have been located and are attached.

The records outline how fees are managed for COVID-19 patient care and that for the most part, payment was at the specialist rate (except as noted in the document that APP and AFP physicians will not be paid additional funding for any work in these clinics), and that the sessional funding is negotiated through the master agreement.

There are no specific fee codes for COVID-19 testing, taking care of a COVID-19 patient, administering a COVID treatment protocol, or for a COVID death. Putting a patient on a ventilator is included in the current fee code structure for critical care.

These public links explain that compensation for COVID vaccinations is the same as for administering annual flu vaccinations:

- <http://msi.medavie.bluecross.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/02/Physicians-Bulletin-February-19-2021.pdf>
- <http://msi.medavie.bluecross.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/05/MSI-Physicians-Bulletin-May-2021.pdf>

You have the right to ask for a review of this decision by the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner (formerly the Review Officer). You have 60 days from the date of this letter to exercise this right. If you wish to ask for a review, you may do so on Form 7, a copy of which is attached. Send the completed form to the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner, P.O. Box 181, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4.

Please be advised that a de-identified copy of this disclosure letter and the attached response to your FOIPOP application will be made public after 14 days. The package will be posted online at <https://openinformation.novascotia.ca/>. The letter will not include your name, address or any other personal information that you have supplied while making your application under FOIPOP.

Please contact Tim Gregory at 902-424-3773 or by e-mail at [timothy.gregory@novascotia.ca](mailto:timothy.gregory@novascotia.ca), if you need further assistance regarding this application.

Sincerely,



Craig Beaton  
Associate Deputy Minister

Attachment



Health and Wellness (DHW)

**DAILY UPDATE TEMPLATE****DATE: March 30, 2020**
**BRANCH/SUPPORT AREA: Physician Services**  
**CONTACT: Vimy Glass (902-471-0970)**

<b>Issue</b>
<p>NSHA has developed a model of care related to COVID-19. The five components are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary Assessment Units</b>, which are located in hospitals. The units are staffed by allied health care teams with virtual oversight by physicians. Physicians are paid through sessional funding.</li> <li><b>Community Primary Assessment Units</b>, which are located outside of hospitals (e.g. Kearny Lake). The units are staffed by allied health care teams with virtual oversight by physicians. Physicians are paid through sessional funding.</li> <li><b>COVID Access Clinics</b>, which are specifically for orphaned and unattached patients and/or those who are exhibiting flu like symptoms that need an in-person exam. NSHA is currently exploring locations for these clinics. Physicians would be paid through sessional funding.</li> <li><b>Secondary Assessment Units</b>, which are located in hospitals. These Units receive, assess and provide initial treatment to COVID-19 cases prior to being transitioned to home or an Inpatient COVID Unit/ICU. There is 24/7 physician coverage. Physicians are paid through sessional funding.</li> <li><b>COVID Inpatient Units</b>, which are located at all regional hospital sites. There is 24/7 physician coverage staffed by Hospitalists and Emergency Department physicians. Physicians are paid through the Hospitalist model of remuneration (lines).</li> </ol>
<b>Impact to Nova Scotians</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSHA is establishing a range of care in response to COVID-19. Services will be established throughout the province on an as-needed basis.</li> <li>Approval of sessional /hospitalist funding for fee-for-service or emergency department physicians enables NSHA to rapidly deploy physicians to various sites, as needed (APP and AFP physicians will not be paid additional funding for any work in these clinics).</li> </ul>
<b>Effective Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While the components are at various stages of planning and implementation, funding will be provided on an as-needed basis and NSHA will submit reports to DHW on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Rational</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This funding will be tracked to ensure appropriate segregation of COVID-related costs and allows NSHA to focus on operationalizing assessment units, access clinics, and inpatient services.</li> <li>NSHA will provide regular reporting to Physician Services to track uptake and cost.</li> </ul>
<b>Messaging</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessional /hospitalist funding enables NSHA to have certainty on how fee-for-service or emergency department physicians can be compensated prior to implementing the various components of its model in a responsive manner.</li> </ul>

- DHW has clarity on how physicians are being remunerated for the various components of care.

**Support Materials (e.g. emails, charts, URL)**

- A NSHA/IWK physician resource request template has been created along with a new email address ([PhysicianServices@novascotia.ca](mailto:PhysicianServices@novascotia.ca)). The template has been shared with the health authorities and any request requires approval of the VP Medicine from the appropriate health authority.

Email completed template with any support materials to: [kary.shannon@novascotia.ca](mailto:kary.shannon@novascotia.ca)