

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Preamble

- 1) The following listings apply only to examinations rendered by the emergency physician designated by the medical staff who is on hospital Emergency Department duty and on-site. Other physicians (e.g.: on call) who choose to attend their patients in the Emergency Department but who are not the designated emergency physicians as defined above, shall not bill these listings but shall refer to other sections of the Payment Schedule for billing the appropriate examinations. The physicians working in hospital Emergency Departments that are covered on a call-in basis as opposed to an on-site basis shall not bill these listings but shall refer to the section of Family Medicine. Physicians working in diagnostic treatment centers or freestanding emergency clinics should also refer to the listings in the section of Family Medicine. Call-in fees (i.e. 00112) or call-out charges for patients seen in the Emergency Department are not applicable to emergency physicians while on duty and on-site in the hospital Emergency Department. These fees, in addition to continuing care non-operative surcharges, are only appropriate for the Emergency Physician providing on-call Trauma Team Leader Services.

- 2) Separate day, evening, night and weekend/statutory holiday listings are defined as follows:

Day fee items (01811, 01812, 01813):	0800 to 1800 hrs, weekdays
Evening fee items (01821, 01822, 01823):	1800 to 2300 hrs, weekdays
Night fee items (01831, 01832, 01833):	2300 to 0800 hrs
Saturday, Sunday or Statutory	
Holiday fee items (01841, 01842, 01843):	0800 to 2300 hrs

Time Care Starts:

Care starts when you pick up the chart and begin reviewing the patient's past history within the hospital's computer system or the information provided by the patient or other health care providers and subsequently document this review OR when you begin your interaction with the patient. Start time must be accurately entered on the claims and documented in the patient's chart, as this determines the correct time listings to submit.

The billing period time is NOT determined by:

- When the majority of care is provided
- When the patient checks in at Triage or is registered

Example:

If you start to see a patient at 07:58 hrs, this is a night fee item patient, (fee items are 01831, 01832 or 01833). If you see a patient at 17:57 hrs, this is either a day fee item patient (fee items are 01811, 01812 or 01813) or a weekend/statutory holiday fee item patient (fee items are 01841, 01842 or 01843). Times between patients should be reasonable for levels billed. For example, it is reasonable that you may see a patient and begin care at 07:58 and bill a night fee item for this care. It is not reasonable that you can initiate care on multiple patients in the two minutes preceding the change to a day (or lower) fee item.

- 3) Emergency Department visit listings are further categorized into three levels of complexity.

LEVEL I (01811, 01821, 01831, 01841)

Evaluation and treatment of a single and/or simple condition affecting a single body system, which requires:

- An abbreviated and/or focused documented history
- Review of relevant labs and/or X-rays
- Organization or guidance of any follow-up required

Examples of Level I:

- INR check
- Single joint injuries – ankle, foot, knee, shoulder or non-displace uncomplicated fractures
- Balanoposthitis
- Radial head subluxation
- Simple uncomplicated adult UTI, acute otitis externa or media
- Simple sore throat with the absence of systemic and/or lower respiratory tract symptoms
- Corneal abrasion, conjunctivitis
- Localized rash in the absence of systemic symptoms

These patients often do not require observation and/or reassessment nor do they present with features that are potentially serious and/or indicative of systemic disease.

Examples NOT Level I: which would require a more thorough evaluation and warrant Level II:

- Concussion
- Low impact head trauma on blood thinners
- Open fracture
- Acute glaucoma, retinal detachment, central artery occlusion
- Mastoiditis
- Localized and/or generalized rash with fever and/or systemic symptoms

However, medical complexity, socioeconomic factors, mental illness, behavioural actions of these patients that led to increased time and effort by the physician should be clearly documented if a Level II is billed for a patient that otherwise would have been a Level I.

LEVEL II (01812, 01822, 01832, 01842)

Pertains to the evaluation of a new or existing medical condition that necessitates:

- An appropriate detailed history and pertinent physical exam including documentation of at least two systems
- Review of labs, ECG & imaging where required
- Initiation of appropriate therapy
- Organization or guidance of any follow-up required
- Includes observation and/or reassessment of patients within 2 hours, but does not preclude another physician billing another level fee or resuscitation code with appropriate documentation if the patient deteriorates or a change in treatment is required and the initial billing physician is no longer available.

LEVEL III (01813, 01823, 01833, 01843)

Pertains to evaluation of patients with serious and/or complex medical problem(s) where the emergency condition necessitates a detailed history and appropriate physical examination by the emergency room physician. These patients may require prolonged observation, continuous therapy and/or multiple reassessments. Documentation of the findings shall include:

- The chief complaint(s)
- History of past and present illness
- Relevant personal, family and social history
- Physical examination with special attention to local examination relevant to the present complaint
- Review and interpretation of relevant laboratory, imaging and ECG studies
- Initiation of therapy provided
- Includes observation and/or reassessment of patients within 3 hours, but does not preclude another physician billing another level fee or resuscitation code with appropriate documentation if the patient deteriorates or a change in treatment is required and the initial billing physician is no longer available
- Discussion with the patient and/or family and/or family physician and/or specialist(s) including organization or guidance of any follow-up required

This level of care shall also pertain to the management of a life threatening illness/injury which requires immediate evaluation and emergent treatment by the emergency physician but does not meet the criteria of the Emergency Medicine Resuscitation fee and hence does not require constant care by the emergency physician.

- 4) If a patient that required Level I, II, or III care, after their initial work-up and/or treatment deteriorates, to the point of requiring active resuscitation they are also eligible for the Emergency Medicine Resuscitation fee item in addition to the initial level fee items.
- 5) **Emergency Medical Consultations:**
 - a. A specialist emergency medicine consultation (fee item 01810) only applies to certified emergency physicians either by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC) or the Canadian College of Family Physicians (CCFP-EM).
 - b. An emergency medicine consultation (billed as 01810) applies only when a patient is referred by another physician or nurse practitioner (other than an emergency physician or nurse practitioner within the same institution's department) who has seen and examined the patient and, because of the complexity, obscurity or seriousness of the problem, the referring physician or nurse practitioner has requested a consultation. Exception: If the consulting physician is an emergency physician who is a designated on-call Trauma Team Leader they may bill emergency medicine consultations if called in by the on-site emergency physician at the same institution.
 - c. An emergency medicine consultation shall include a detailed history and appropriate physical examination, review of previous medical records, discussion with family, friends or witnesses when appropriate, evaluation of appropriate laboratory, imaging and ECG findings and report of opinions and recommendations clearly documented and accessible by the referring physician.
 - d. A copy of the Emergency Department chart does not constitute a consultation report unless it is within the Electronic Medical Record and section c. above has been satisfied.
 - e. A consultation cannot be charged for the routine transfer of care to the emergency physician or for the provision of treatment for a stable medical condition.
 - f. A consultation does not apply in cases of self referral by patients who present themselves to the Emergency Department or are brought by persons acting on their behalf.
 - g. If a consultation is charged in addition to the Emergency Resuscitation fee, the consultation fee can be paid but shall constitute a half-hour of time spent with patient.

- h. No service charges (i.e. call-out charges, non-operative surcharges) may be billed in addition to the emergency medicine consultation fee, except for Trauma Team Leaders, with a note record.

6) **Transfer of care:**

The transfer of care between emergency physicians at the change of shift shall not generate a new visit or consultation fee. However, in the event of a significant deterioration in a patient's status that medically requires both a new examination and/or modification of the treatment plan, then the appropriate visit fee item may be claimed. This does not preclude the second physician from billing a resuscitation code if the patient has declined to the point of requiring this type of care. The assessment and/or modification of the treatment plan must be documented in the medical record and the time of the intervention should be noted on the billing claims.

- 7) An appropriate level fee is billable in addition to a procedural fee whether the diagnostic code is the same or different. The greater fee is paid at 100% and the lesser fee(s) are paid at 50%.