



Activity Plan

Medical Consultants' Committee

2007/08

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Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to provide the 2007/08 Activity Plan for the Medical Consultants' Committee (the Committee) in accordance with the requirements of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 Government Entity. This is a transition plan leading into the three year plan required for 2008-2011. In the development of this plan careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of government, as communicated by the responsible minister.

This Activity Plan provides an overview of the Committee and identifies key objectives to be accomplished during the fiscal period covered by the plan. As Chairperson of the Medical Consultants' Committee, I am accountable on behalf of the entire Committee, for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the specific objectives contained therein.



Dr. Blair Fleming MD
Chairperson

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1.0 Overview

The Medical Consultants' Committee reviews the patterns of practice and billing procedures of physicians who submit claims to the Medical Care Plan (MCP) as well as the utilization of services by beneficiaries. The Committee advises the Minister of Health and Community Services of its findings.

The Committee is a key component in the Department of Health and Community Services audit function. It can recommend recovery of funds billed in error and other corrective actions and serves to deter misbilling by all fee-for-service physicians.

The Medical Consultants' Committee consists of seven members, as follows:

- Three physicians appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services from a list submitted by the Newfoundland Labrador Medical Association. These members serve for a period of up to five consecutive years.
- A chartered accountant appointed by the Minister. This member serves for a period of up to five consecutive years.
- The Department's Medical Director, Assistant Medical Director and Dental Director.

The Medical Consultants' Committee is chaired by the Assistant Medical Director.

Current membership of the Committee is as follows:

1. Dr. Blair Fleming MD, Assistant Medical Director, Department of Health and Community Services
2. Dr. Cathi Bradbury MD, Medical Director, Department of Health and Community Services
3. Dr. Ed Williams DDS, Dental Director, Department of Health and Community Services
4. Dr. Michael Paul, Specialist
5. Dr. Stephen Major, fee-for-service General Practitioner
6. Dr. Karen Horwood, salaried General Practitioner
7. Mr. Robert Healey, Chartered Accountant

The Committee meets when one or more medical billing audits have reached the stage where they are ready for review by the Committee. Historically, the Committee has met from one to four times a year. Administrative support and remuneration expenses of the Committee's members are provided by the Audit and Claims Integrity Division of the Department of Health and Community Services.

2.0 Mandate

The Medical Consultants' Committee is established pursuant to Sections 14 and 15 of the Medical Care Insurance Physicians and Fee Regulations. The duties and responsibilities of the Council include providing advice to the Minister as follows:

- Review the patterns of practice and billing procedures of participating physicians and the utilization of services by beneficiaries.
- Where the Committee concludes that no corrective action is warranted beyond notification to the physician of a finding that a deviant pattern or unacceptable billing practice exists, that notification may be given or authorized by the Committee.
- Recovery of funds or other disciplinary or investigative action may be recommended by the Committee to the Minister.

3.0 Primary Client

The primary client of the Medical Consultants' Committee is the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Community Services.

4.0 Vision

The Medical Consultants' Committee supports the vision of the Department of Health and Community Services.

"The vision of the Department of Health and Community Services is for individuals, families and communities to have achieved optimal health and well being."

5.0 Mission

The Medical Advisory Committee's mandate is not broad enough to develop a separate mission, therefore it has adopted the Departmental Mission. The MAC contributes to the Departmental mission by reviewing patterns of practice and billing procedures of participating physicians and the utilization of services by beneficiaries. Government must ensure the wise and prudent use of public resources and this includes reviewing MCP billing by fee-for-service physicians and utilization of services by beneficiaries.

By 2011, the Department of Health and Community Services will have developed and guided implementation of provincial policies and strategies to ensure equitable and quality services in population health, to public health capacity and accessibility to priority services and to improve accountability and stability in the health and community services system.

6.0 Objectives

By the end of fiscal 2007/08, the Medical Consultants' Committee will have met at least three times and reviewed cases prepared by the Audit and Claims Integrity Division of the Department of Health and Community Services.

Measure:

- Review cases prepared by the Audit and Claims Integrity Division of the Department of Health and Community Services.

Indicators:

- Meet a minimum of three times
- Completed reviews of MCP billing audits on fee-for-service physicians

7.0 Appendix A: Strategic Direction

1. **Strategic Direction Title:** Improved accountability and stability in the delivery of health and community services within available resources

Strategic Direction Statement: Delivery of health and community services occurs in the context of Government's commitment to bring the Province's finances in order.

Clarifying Statement: The health and community services system consumes 46 per cent of all Government program expenditures and this has an important impact on the fiscal stability of the Province. Government must ensure the wise and prudent use of public resources and this includes reviewing MCP billing by fee-for-service physicians and utilization of services by beneficiaries.

Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is/was		
	Not being implemented at this time (rationale included in the plan)	Addressed only in specific sub-areas (rationale included in the plan)	Addressed in the activities plan
Identification and utilization of information for evidence based planning in service delivery.			*