

May 6, 2020

Changes to Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan- Payment for Diagnostic Imaging Referred by Physiotherapists with Advanced Certification

Dear Medical Professional,

I am writing to inform you of the changes recently announced by the Alberta Government for diagnostic imaging services ordered by a Physiotherapists with Advanced Certification. All diagnostic imaging services are no longer being covered by Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHC) effective March 31, 2020.

Mayfair will provide appropriate advice to you and your patient about the changes. Accurate communications and advice will be provided during the appointment booking process and at all Mayfair clinics

Below are the guidelines:

1. Patient Payment for Uninsured Diagnostic Imaging

- a. Please ensure that you and/or your clinical team advises patients that diagnostic imaging services are now uninsured by AHC. It is now a 'patient pay' service when requested by a physiotherapist with advanced certification and there will be a cost to the patient for the exam(s).
- b. Mayfair's pricing for X-ray and Ultrasound aligns with the published Alberta Society of Radiology based solely on Schedule of Medical Benefits (SOMB) with no further fees.
- c. Private MRI services will be offered on a "patient pay" basis with a referral from a physiotherapist with advanced certification with the exception of MRI Arthrograms.
- d. Please call our contact center on 403.777.3000 then press #3 to access private pay pricing for your patients for Ultrasound and X-ray.
- e. The relevant fee(s) will be payable by the patient prior to the exam. Mayfair accepts credit or debit card. Cash and cheque payment is not accepted.
- f. Patients are welcome to check with their private insurance provider/Health Care Spending Account (HSA) for fees that may be covered for diagnostic imaging services. Mayfair does not direct bill private insurance providers at this time.

2. Partnership with Physicians

- a. Physicians are permitted to order diagnostic imaging services under the current AHS plan. Physiotherapists have the option to send patients to a physician for a formal referral process and/or partner with a physician to enable their patients to obtain diagnostic imaging as an insured service. Should this pathway be chosen, the report will be issued to the referring physician.
- b. Mayfair will have no role in the referral process. The reports will be sent to the referrer on the requisition form and will be uploaded into Netcare.

MAYFAIR[®]
DIAGNOSTICS

MEDICAL
IMAGING
REIMAGINED
radiology.ca

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This message is CONFIDENTIAL and legally privileged. It intended only for the person(s) or organization(s) to which it is addressed. Please note that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents by any other than the addressee may be a contravention under the Health Information Act, the Health Information Protection Act, and/or other legislations. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete any electronic or hard copy in your possession.

3. Patient Education

- a. Patient education materials will be available online at www.radiology.ca for your patients that are referred for diagnostic imaging by your organization. The content defines insured versus uninsured diagnostic imaging services and payment options. The materials will also explain options to reclaim uninsured diagnostic imaging expenses through private health plans /HSA coverage if this an option.

Mayfair understands the impact of this change in government policy on your practice. As a valued referrer, Mayfair is doing our best to be as supportive as possible, while operating within the parameters of this new paradigm. Please consult with Alberta Health Services to understand what arrangements may exist within the policy changes by the government. You may also visit <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/health-med-212-bulletin-payment-diagnostic-imaging-referred.pdf> for more information.

Mayfair will make every endeavor to ensure you and your patients have a clear understanding of the changes. Mayfair will also be contacting referred patients that have appointments already booked after March 31, 2020 to explain the changes that are taking place so that they may consider their options.

If you have any questions, please email the Business Development Team at BD@radiology.ca and one of the team members will contact you.

Sincerely

Tim Mar
Director, Business Development

Exams referred by chiropractors or physiotherapists are to be patient-paid as of March 31, 2020
<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/health-med-212-bulletin-payment-diagnostic-imaging-referred.pdf>

Prices quoted below are based on the current Schedule of Medical Benefits as of October 1, 2019
<https://www.alberta.ca/fees-health-professionals.aspx>

Some DI providers may charge a small additional service fee for handling private payments

X-ray, CPSA Accredited

Area / Description	Fee code	Rate
Finger	X29	\$20.81
Hand	X30	\$32.37
Wrist (or Wrist + Hand)	X31	\$37.00
Elbow	X33	\$33.14
Shoulder girdle	X36	\$54.72
Toe	X38	\$20.81
Foot	X39	\$32.37
Ankle	X40	\$37.00
Knee, Basic	X43	\$42.01
Knee, OA series or Pre-Op	X43 + X43B	\$42.01 + \$21.20 = \$63.21
Hip only	X47	\$47.40
Pelvis and One Hip	X52	\$61.27
Pelvis and Both Hips	X53	\$69.37
SI Joints	X54	\$60.50
Spine, one area	X55	\$68.98
Spine, one area, with obliques	X56	\$83.24
Spine, two areas	X57	\$114.46
Spine, two areas, with obliques	X57A	\$164.17
Complete spine (3+ areas)	X58	\$160.32
(Complete spine with obliques)	X58E	\$247.03
Ribs	X22	\$48.17
Bone Mineral Densitometry, DEXA	X128	\$141.28

*add 50% for a bilateral study, unless otherwise stated

Diagnostic Consultative Ultrasound, CPSA Accredited

Area / Description	Fee code	Rate
Hand	X334	\$115.23
Wrist	X334	\$115.23
Elbow	X334	\$115.23
Shoulder	X335	\$160.32
Foot	X334	\$115.23
Ankle	X334	\$115.23
Knee	X334	\$115.23
Hip	X334	\$115.23
Abdominal wall	X313	\$102.90

*per area or side

Notes:

- Additional exams and fees can be found on the AMA's Fee Navigator:
<https://www.albertadoctors.org/fee-navigator>
- Prices could vary depending on the exact clinical indication; please contact your preferred Radiology / Diagnostic Imaging Provider to confirm pricing
- Prices include the usual overhead costs (business costs) of providing the service, which are approximately 70% of these fees

For more information on Radiology / Diagnostic Imaging in Alberta, go to
<https://getthewholepicture.ca/>