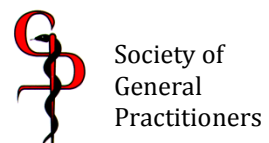


**GP SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Palliative Care INCENTIVES**

**Revised**  
**November 2010**



## GPSC Palliative Care Planning and Management Fees

The Palliative Care Incentive is intended to enhance the planning and coordination of end-of-life care for patients. Preparation and advance care planning are critical once it has been determined that a patient's condition is terminal. The GPSC Palliative Care Incentive supports family physicians to take the time needed to work through the various decisions and plans that need to be determined to ensure the best possible quality of life for dying patients and their families. The "Palliative Care Planning fee" will compensate the family physician for undertaking and documenting a care plan. The development of the care plan is done jointly with the patient &/or the patient representative as appropriate. ***The patient & or their representative/family should leave the planning process/visit knowing there is a plan for their care and what that plan is.***

In addition, once the planning process has been completed and the planning fee successfully billed, the Family Physician or practice group will be able to access up to 5 phone/e-mail follow-up management fees

### Eligibility

- Eligible patients are community based (living in their home, with family or assisted living).
- Payable only to the General Practitioner or practice group that accepts the role of being
- Most Responsible for longitudinal coordinated care of the patient for that calendar year;
- Not payable to physicians who have been paid for any specialty consultation fee in the previous 12 months;
- Not payable to physicians who are employed by a health authority or agency or who are under contract whose duties would otherwise include the provision of this care;
- Not payable to physicians working under a salary, service contract or sessional arrangements and whose duties would otherwise include the provision of this care.

### GP Palliative Care Fees

<b>G14063</b>	<b>Palliative Care Planning Fee</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>G14069</b>	<b>Palliative Care Telephone/E-mail Follow-up Management Fee</b>	<b>\$15</b>

### G14063 Palliative Care planning fee

This fee is payable upon the development and documentation of a Palliative Care Plan for patients who have been determined to have reached the palliative stage of a life-limiting disease or illness, with life expectancy of up to 6 months, and who consent to the focus of care being palliative rather than treatment aimed at cure. Medical Diagnoses include end-stage cardiac, respiratory, renal and liver disease, end stage dementia, degenerative neuromuscular disease, HIV/AIDS or malignancy.

Eligible patients must be resident in the community; in a home or in assisted living or supportive housing. Facility-resident patients are not eligible for this initiative.

This fee requires the GP to conduct a comprehensive review of the patient's chart/history and assessment of the patient's current diagnosis to determine if the patient has a life-limiting condition that has become palliative and/or remains palliative. It requires a face-to-face visit and assessment of the patient. If the patient is incapable of participating in the assessment to confirm and agree to their being palliative, then the patient's alternate substitute decision maker or legal health representative must be consulted and asked to provide informed consent.

#### Notes:

- Requires documentation of the patient's medical diagnosis, determination that the patient has become palliative, and patient's agreement to no longer seek treatment aimed at cure;
- Patient must be eligible for BC Palliative Care Benefits Program (not necessary to have applied for palliative care benefits program);
- Payable once per patient once patient deemed to be palliative. Under circumstances when the patient moves communities after the initial palliative care planning fee has been billed, it may be billed by the new GP who is assuming the ongoing palliative care for the patient;
- Payable in addition to a visit fee billed on the same day;

- iv) Minimum required time 30 minutes in addition to visit time same day;
- v) G14016, community patient conferencing fee payable on same day for same patient if all criteria met;
- vi) Not payable on same day as G14015, facility patient conferencing fee;
- vii) Not payable on same day as G14017, acute care discharge planning;
- viii) Not payable on the same day as G14069 (Palliative Care Telephone/E-mail management fee)
- ix) G14050, G14051, G14052, G14053, G14033, G14034 not payable once Palliative Care Planning fee is billed as patient has moved from active management of chronic disease to palliative.
- x) G14043, G14044, G14045, G14046, G14047, G14048, G14049 the GPSC Mental Health Initiative Fees are payable once G14063 has been billed provided all requirements are met, but are not payable on same day.

### **G14069 Palliative Care Telephone/E-mail follow up management fee**

This fee is payable for 2-way communication with eligible patients or the patient's medical representative via telephone or e-mail for the provision of clinical follow-up management by the GP who has created and billed for the Palliative Care Planning fee (G14063). ***This fee is not to be billed for simple appointment reminders or referral notification.***

#### Notes:

- i) Payable to a maximum of 5 times following successful billing of Palliative Care Planning fee G14063;
- ii) Telephone/e-mail Management requires 2-way communication between the patient or the patient's medical representative and physician or medical staff on a clinical level; it is not payable for simple notification of office appointments;
- iii) Payable only to the physician paid for the Palliative Care Planning fee (G14063) unless that physician has agreed to share care with another delegated physician;
- iv) Not payable on the same day as a visit fee;
- v) Not payable on the same day as G14063, Palliative care planning fee
- vi) G14016, Community Patient Conferencing Fee, payable on same day for same patient if all criteria met. Time spent on telephone under this fee with patient does not count toward the time requirement of G14016;
- vii) Not payable on same day as any of G14043, G14044, G14045, G14046, G14047, G14048 or G14049, GPSC Mental Health Initiative fees.
- viii) Not payable on same day as G14015, Facility Patient Conferencing Fee;
- ix) Not payable on same day as G14017, Acute Care Discharge Planning Conferencing Fee;
- x) Chart entry must record the name of the person who communicated with the patient or patient's medical representative, as well as capture the elements of care discussed.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the purpose of the Palliative Care Planning and Management Fees?**

Family Physicians provide care to patients and their families across the full spectrum of life. Preparation and advance care planning are a critical first step once it has been determined that a patient's malignancy, AIDS or end-stage medical condition is terminal. With the GPSC Palliative Care Incentive payment, family physicians will be encouraged to take the time needed to work through the various decisions and plans that need to be determined to ensure the best possible quality of life for dying patients and their families. The "Palliative Care Planning fee" will compensate the family physician for undertaking and documenting a care plan.

### **2. What is the difference between "assisted living" and "care facilities"?**

There are a wide range of living facilities currently available. Some, referred to under the terms of this initiative as 'assisted living' facilities, provide only basic supports, such as meals and housecleaning, and are unable to provide their residents with nursing and other health support. A "care facility" on the other hand, is

defined under the terms of this initiative as being a facility that does provide supervision and support from other health professionals such as nurses.

### **3. Why is this incentive limited to patients living in their homes or in assisted living?**

While there may be exceptions, patients resident in a facility such as a Long Term Care Facility or hospital usually have available a resident team of other health care providers to share in the organization and provision of care. Patients residing in their homes or in assisted living usually do not have such a team, and the organization and supervision of care is usually more complex and time consuming for the GP.

### **4. When can I bill the Palliative Care Planning Fee (14063)?**

This fee is payable once per patient once patient deemed to be palliative. Under circumstances when the patient moves communities after the initial palliative care planning fee has been billed, it may be billed by the new GP who is assuming the ongoing palliative care for the patient. The patient must be eligible for BC Palliative Care Benefits Program although it is not necessary to have applied for palliative care benefits program prior to undertaking the palliative care planning process. You must have determined that the patient has become palliative, and must confirm the patient's agreement to no longer seek treatment aimed at cure.

### **5. What is a Palliative Care Plan?**

A Palliative Care plan will include the following components:

- A statement of the patient's primary medical diagnosis;
- A statement that the patient is medically palliative based on the physician's medical diagnosis AND the patient's agreement to no longer seek treatment aimed at cure;
- A list of the potential health care needs and the plan for managing these needs. As an example this may include Home and Community Care support services such as home support, home nursing care, personal care, after-hours palliative care, respite and/or hospice care; access to palliative medications, and supplies and equipment through the Provincial Palliative Benefits Program;
- A detailed, current plan for symptom management, including completing the application form and process to access the Palliative Benefits Program when appropriate;
- A list of the clinical indicators on when referral/access to specialist palliative care services may be needed;
- A copy of the patient's most current advance directive if available; and
- Completion and retention of forms to support a planned natural home death when this is part of the patient goal (Notification of a Planned Home Death; No CPR form, etc.).
- Physicians and patients are encouraged to ensure these documents will be available to the local emergency room in the event of patient attendance there.

### **6. When can I bill the Palliative Care Telephone/Email Management fee?**

The follow-up of patients with a palliative condition does not always need to be face-to-face or by the physician. This new fee is payable for 2-way clinical interaction provided between the GP or delegated practice staff (e.g. office RN or MOA) in follow-up on the Palliative Care Planning Fee (G14063). This fee is payable only if the GP or practice has billed and been paid for the Palliative Care Planning Fee (G14063).

### **7. Why are there restrictions excluding physicians "who are employed by or who are under contract to a facility and whose duties would otherwise include provision of this care" or to "physicians working under salary, service, or sessional arrangements?"**

This incentive has been designed to remove the disincentive that exists under current fee for service payments to provide more time-consuming complex care to a patient, instead of choosing to see a greater number of patients of a simpler clinical nature. The physician's time is considered to be already compensated if he/she is under a contract "whose duties would otherwise include provision of this care", or is being compensated by a salary, service, or sessional arrangement.

### **8. Am I eligible to bill for the Community Patient Conferencing Fee (G14016) in addition to receiving the Palliative Care payment(s)?**

Yes. The palliative care payment(s) relates to services provided to the patient. Much of Palliative Care is provided in an interdisciplinary manner with the use of teams including community nurses, pharmacists, palliative specialists and other allied health professionals. If as a result of the Palliative Care Planning visit (G14063), or as a result of the Palliative Care Telephone/Email Management (G14069), the physician needs

to conference with allied health professions about the care plan and any changes, then the services provided in conferencing with other health care professionals is payable over and above the palliative care payments. It is payable on the same day as long as all criteria are met. The time spent on the phone with the patient for the Palliative Care Telephone/Email Management (G14069) does not count toward the total time billed under the Community Patient Conferencing Fee (G14016).

**9. Am I eligible to bill for the Chronic Disease Management Fee(s) (G14050, G14051, G14052, G14053) in addition to these Palliative Care Initiative fees?**

No. The G14050, G14051, G14052, G14053, G14033, G14034 are not payable once Palliative Care Planning fee is billed as patient has moved from active management of chronic disease to palliative.

**10. Why is the Palliative Care Telephone/Email Management Fee (G14069) restricted to the GP that has been paid for the Palliative Care Planning Fee (G14063)?**

This fee is designed to allow greater flexibility in providing follow-up to a plan that has been created. The GP that has been paid for the Palliative Care Planning Fee has also accepted the responsibility of being Most Responsible for that patient's care for palliative diagnoses. The Palliative Care Plan requires work, the shouldering of responsibility, and has considerable value. This fee is therefore restricted to the GP that has created the palliative care plan.

**11. If the Palliative Care Telephone/Email Management fees (G14069) are restricted to the GP who has been paid for the Palliative Care Planning Fee (G14063), what do group practices do when they share the care of the patient?**

An exception has been made, allowing another GP to bill for this fee with the approval of the Most Responsible GP (MRGP). This allows flexibility in situations when patient care is shared between GPs. In this circumstance, the alternate GP must submit the claim with a note record indicating he/she is in the group of the MRGP and is sharing the care of the patient. If a disagreement arises about the billing of this service, the GP Services Committee will adjudicate based upon whether the Most Responsible GP, i.e the GP paid for the Palliative Care Planning Fee, approved or did not approve the service provided. The GP Services Committee feels that this provides the maximum flexibility while still maintaining responsibility.

**12. Are any of the Palliative Care Incentive fees eligible for the Rural Retention Premium?**

No.

## **Billing Scenario**

Mr A. is a 65 patient with metastatic Lung Cancer. He has just come to his GP's office to review the feedback from the local cancer clinic. He has been advised by the oncologist that there is no further active management of his cancer that is aimed at cure available. He understands that he is now palliative and he and his wife want to discuss his options for care and make plans for his management in his home with community support. He is your last appointment of the day. You spend time reviewing his diagnosis, treatment, community care options and complete all forms needed for a planned natural home death as that is he and his wife's goal. In total this **palliative planning visit takes 45 minutes**.

The next day you **contact the local home hospice program to discuss the plan** for Mr. A in the community as well as follow **up with the pharmacists** around his medications. **In total this community conferencing takes 25 minutes**. Over the next 3 weeks, you see him **once for counseling** and **once for a follow up visit in the office**, provide **three telephone follow up visits** with Mr. A., and then determine that home visits are the best course of planned care. Over the next 2 months, you **see him 4 times at home** and **conference with community care twice for 15 minutes each time** as well as **5 brief phone calls with the home hospice worker to provide advice about management**.

As his condition progresses it becomes apparent that despite increased home support, his family need some respite, so you arrange for his admission to the local hospice facility. He is admitted to the local hospice unit and on the day after admission you attend a **30 minute care conference** to review his management. You see him every second day for the first 2 weeks, then daily for the last 4 days prior to his death for a **total of**

**11 visits in the hospice unit.** You have no other patients in hospice so Mr. A. is your first and only patient seen each day. Total of 3 ½ months from time of change to palliative status.

**Billings for Mr. A**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Fee Code</b>	<b>Value*</b>
Palliative Care Planning Visit – 45 min	14063	\$100.00
Palliative Care Planning Visit – 45 min	16100	
Community Patient Conferencing	14016 X2	\$80.00
Counseling Visit	16120	
Telephone follow up management #1	14069	\$15.00
Office Visit for follow up	16100	
Telephone follow up management #2	14069	\$15.00
Telephone follow up management #3	14069	\$15.00
Planned Home visit #1	00103	
Community Patient Conferencing	14016 X1	\$40.00
Advice about patient in care #1	13005	
Planned Home visit #2	00103	
Planned Home visit #2	00103	
Advice about patient in care #2	13005	
Planned Home visit #3	00103	
Community Patient Conferencing	14016 X1	\$40.00
Advice about patient in care #3	13005	
Advice about patient in care #4	13005	
Planned Home visit #4	00103	
Advice about patient in care #5	13005	
Facility Patient conferencing – 30 min	14015 X2	\$80.00
Palliative Visits in hospice** (first or only pt seen)	13127 X11	

\* Only GPSC values included as MSP values are subject to increase every April 1.

\*\* Effective April 1, 2009, visits to palliative patients in facilities are billable on an ongoing basis for up to 180 days of care once the patient care has been deemed to be palliative. You can bill this day by day, or batch together as provided.