

October 2009

Further to Bulletin Med 149, the Clinical Stabilization Initiative, established in the 2006 Trilateral Amending Agreement, includes the Rural Remote Northern Program (RRNP). The purpose of the RRNP is to compensate physicians who practice in under-serviced areas. The program commenced September 1, 2007.

You are receiving this letter because you have provided services in one or more eligible communities in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. As a result, you may be eligible to receive benefits under the RRNP.

Physicians practicing in eligible communities may qualify to receive financial incentives. The attached list includes all communities which are eligible for this program. Excluded communities are Airdrie, Calgary, Devon, Edmonton, Leduc, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Sherwood Park, St. Albert and Stony Plain.

There are two types of benefits available under the RRNP: 1) Flat Fee payment and 2) Variable Fee Premium payment. You may qualify for one or both types of benefits.

The Flat Fee payment will be made to physicians who **practice and reside** in an eligible community, providing:

- he/she submits a completed RRNP Application form;
- he/she earns at least \$50,000 annually from insured services provided within their declared community; and
- he/she resides in an eligible community for at least 9 months in a year.

The Variable Fee Premium payment will be issued **automatically** to physicians who provide any service in an eligible community, whether or not they reside in an eligible community. Variable Fee Premium payment will be calculated from physician claims previously submitted to Alberta Health and Wellness.

Flat Fee payments will be issued on a quarterly basis (April, July, October and January). The first Flat Fee payment will be issued on March 27, 2010 and will cover the first three quarterly payments for the 2009 fiscal year. Regular quarterly payments will begin in April 2010.

../2

Completed applications must be received at Alberta Health and Wellness by November 20, 2009, to be considered for Flat Fee payments in late March 2010. Applications received **after** November 20, 2009, will still be evaluated for all quarterly payments within the fiscal year, however assessments will only be calculated every quarter.

RRNP application forms required submission annually in prior years; however, with the implementation of the new RRNP system physicians will only need to apply once for the Flat Fee payments. **It is the physician's responsibility to notify Alberta Health and Wellness of a change in declared community or residency by submitting a new RRNP Flat Fee application form.**

Please complete the enclosed application to participate in the RRNP. If you do not wish to participate in the program, please write "DECLINED" on page two, and sign and date the form prior to returning it. Your prompt return of the attached application form is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Clinical Stabilization Initiative Coordinator

Enclosures