

CONSULTATIONS AND VISITS

FAMILY PRACTICE & PRACTICE IN GENERAL (00)

PHYSICIAN/NURSE PRACTITIONER TO PHYSICIAN TELEPHONE CONSULTATION

Physician to physician telephone consultation is a service where the referring physician or *nurse practitioner*, in light of his/her professional knowledge of the patient, requests the opinion of a physician (the “consultant physician”) by telephone who is competent to give advice in the particular field because of the complexity, seriousness, or obscurity of the case.

This service is *only eligible for payment* if the consultant physician has provided an opinion and/or recommendations for patient treatment and/or management.

For the purpose of this service, “relevant data” include family/patient history, history of the presenting complaint, laboratory and diagnostic tests, where indicated and feasible in the circumstances.

Note:

The Definition/Required elements of service and payment rules for consultations in the General Preamble are not applicable to physician to physician telephone consultations.

Definition/Required elements of service – Referring physician/Nurse Practitioner

The referring physician or *nurse practitioner* initiates the telephone consultation with the intention of continuing the care, treatment and management of the patient.

In addition to the Constituent and *Common Elements* of Insured Services described in the General Preamble of this *Schedule*, this service includes the transmission of relevant data to the consultant physician and all other services rendered by the referring physician or *nurse practitioner* to obtain the advice of the consultant physician.

Note:

This service is eligible for payment in addition to visits or other services provided to the same patient on the same *day* by the same referring physician.

Definition/Required elements of service – Consultant physician

This service includes all services rendered by the consultant physician to provide opinion/advice/recommendations on patient care, treatment and management to the referring physician. The consultant physician is required to review all relevant data provided by the referring physician or *nurse practitioner*.

K730	Physician to physician telephone consultation - Referring physician	31.35
K731	Physician to physician telephone consultation - Consultant physician.....	40.45

Physician on duty in an emergency department or a hospital urgent care clinic

K734	Physician to physician telephone consultation - Referring physician	31.35
K735	Physician to physician telephone consultation - Consultant physician.....	40.45

[Commentary:

Referring and consultant physicians participating in physician to physician telephone consultations while on duty in an emergency department or a hospital urgent care clinic should submit claims using K734 and K735. K730 and K731 should not be claimed in these circumstances.]

Payment rules:

1. A maximum of one K730 or K734 service is eligible for payment per patient per day.
2. A maximum of one K731 or K735 service is eligible for payment per patient per day.
3. This service is *only eligible for payment* for a physician to physician telephone consultation service:
 - a. that includes a minimum of 10 minutes of patient-related discussion for any given patient
 - b. where the referring physician/*nurse practitioner* and consultant physician are physically present in Ontario at the time of the service
4. This service is *not eligible for payment* to the referring or consultant physicians in the following circumstances:
 - a. when the purpose of the telephone discussion is to arrange for transfer of the patient’s care to any physician;
 - b. when rendered in whole or in part to arrange for a consultation, assessment, visit, or K-prefix time-based services, procedure(s), or diagnostic investigation(s);
 - c. when rendered primarily to discuss results of diagnostic investigation(s); or
 - d. when a consultant physician renders a consultation, assessment, visit, or K-prefix time-based service, on the same *day* or next *day* following the physician to physician telephone consultation for the same patient.
5. In circumstances where a physician receives compensation, other than by fee-for-service under this *Schedule*, for participation in the telephone consultation, this service is *not eligible for payment* to that physician.