# The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island

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## **Charging for Uninsured Services**

#### **Preamble:**

Patients may request services which are not covered by Medicare. In accordance with this Policy, a service may be billed directly to the patient in circumstances where it is not covered by Medicare or another insuring body.

#### **Definitions**

**Uninsured Services** - services provided by a registrant to a patient which are not covered by Medicare. Examples include, but are not limited to: certificates, forms, tests required for employment, and transfer of medical records.

### **Policy**

The College expects registrants to adhere to the following guidelines when determining whether to charge a patient a fee for an uninsured service:

- The fee charged should be reasonable and commensurate with the service(s) provided. Registrants should consider a patient's ability to pay when determining a fee and the possibility of waiving or reducing a fee on compassionate grounds.
- Physicians can refer to the Medical Society of PEI's *Physicians' Guide to Uninsured Services* for the recommended schedule of fees (if applicable). Physicians must let patients know if they are charging more than this guide and the reason(s) why.
- Inform patients of any fee to be charged in advance of providing the uninsured service. Posting a general notice listing fees for common uninsured services is not a substitute for directly informing patients of the fees associated with uninsured services prior to providing them.
- Maintain clear documentation in support of all fees charged for uninsured services.

#### **Document History:**

October 9, 2025