



This document is a practice standard of the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

This practice standard applies to uninsured services provided to BC residents who are enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP).

The MSP of British Columbia covers most of a patient's medical fees for services provided by registrants. However, there are some medical services, referred to as uninsured services, that may not be covered by MSP or other third-party insurers (e.g. medical examinations, certificates/forms, or tests required for employment or driving a motor vehicle). Patients may be charged for these services either on a fee-for-service basis, or in some circumstances, by charging a block fee that would cover all of the services not paid for by MSP over a certain time period.

Registrants are reminded that they must place the interests of their patients over their own

indicate that the payment of a block fee is optional and that patients may choose to pay for uninsured services as they are provided, charge a block fee for a period of no greater than one year, list, in writing, each of the services covered under the block fee, including how much each service would cost if paid for on a fee-for-service basis, and allow the patient the opportunity to rescind the decision to pay a block fee within a week of their original decision. Where a patient rescinds their decision to pay a block fee, registrants should refund the amount charged for the block fee and can then charge the patient for any uninsured services already provided. Additionally, when a registrant ends the patient-physician relationship or ceases to practice, or when a patient leaves a practice, registrants are advised to consider whether it would be reasonable to refund a portion of the block fee, considering the time remaining in the block fee and the services that have been provided to date.

Registrants must set fees which are reasonable and commensurate with the service(s)

It is acceptable to bill patients privately for missed appointments provided the patient has been forewarned of the registrant's policy in this regard, and the registrant exercises judgment and compassion in submitting such an account. Registrants who intend to charge patients in these circumstances must have a system in place to facilitate the cancellation process.