
Visits to Long-Term Care Facilities

This fact sheet provides basic information only. It must not take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always talk to a healthcare professional about any health concerns you have, and before you make any changes to your diet, lifestyle or treatment.

What does OHIP cover?

All medically necessary visits for assessment and treatment of residents in long-term care facilities are covered by OHIP.

In addition, routine visits are also covered as follows :

- to a total of eight visits per month for patients in chronic care and convalescent hospitals;
- to a total of four visits per month for patients in nursing homes and other institutions covered by long-term care legislation.

What is not covered?

OHIP does not cover routine visits in excess of the limits described above.

As well, it is a condition of payment that all visits include a direct physical encounter between the physician and the patient. This includes any appropriate physical examination and ongoing monitoring of the patient's condition.

Why?

Physicians are paid for routine visits to residents of long-term care facilities and nursing homes. However, more routine visits than the above limits are considered excessive.

Formerly, physicians were permitted to visit a long-term care facility and be paid for reviewing the medical records. Now physicians will also be required to visit patients face-to-face.

Government of Ontario

For information about health services and resources :

www.health.gov.on.ca

For consumer-friendly health tips and information :

www.HealthyOntario.com

INFOline: 1-877-234-4343;

TTY: 1-800-387-5559

Telehealth Ontario:

1-866-797-0000; TTY 1-866-797-0007

INFOline is open during business hours and can provide general information on healthcare.

Telehealth Ontario is a 24/7 service which uses nurse practitioners to answer your immediate health concerns.