Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Health

Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioner) Patient Referrals to Specialists

The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Payment Amendment Regulations have been changed to allow specialist physicians to bill the same rates for RN(NP) patient referrals as if the patient had been referred to that specialist by another physician. The RN(NP) will include their four digit billing number on the referral to support processing of the payment.

For those RN(NP)s who do not have an assigned billing number, the generic number 3401 must be used in order to facilitate the processing of the claim. Please remember that this number is for the purpose of physician referral and must only be used for this purpose.

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association has established standards of practice for RN(NP)s. These standards include the expectation for the RN(NP) to work collaboratively and to consult with a physician should the client require care beyond the RN(NP)'s competency and scope of practice. There are no regulatory or legislative deterrents that limit the ability of the RN(NP) to refer a patient to a specialist or to provide patient follow up post consultation.

RN(NP)s will continue to work collaboratively with a family physician(s) and the team will jointly decide how and when to refer patients. Patient follow up will be provided through these teams. In order to expedite the referral process and ease the workload of teams, RN(NP) patient referrals no longer require the co-signature or billing number of a physician in order to be accepted by a specialist and processed for payment.

In situations where RN(NP)s are not linked with a family physician, the regional health authorities will work with physicians to provide linkage for consultation and patient assessment purposes. RN(NP)s will be responsible for any patient follow up required and will have means to consult physicians for support.

I want to thank the SRNA and RN(NP)s for sharing their patient care experiences with the referral process. This evidence supported the changes made to this legislation.

Please contact me at (306) 787-7195 or by email at ldigneydavis@health.gov.sk.ca should any questions arise.

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