

BCPCLinks

BCPC Practice Bulletin

January 2024

Patient to Physician Secure Messaging Proof-of-Concept Pilot

Registration is now open for Pilot which starts on April 1, 2024

Ministry of Health Communication:

The Ministry of Health (ministry) is implementing a two-year Secure Messaging Proof-of-Concept (PoC) Pilot for eligible, patient-to-physician services by secure messaging within the Ontario Virtual Care Program (OVCP) according to the terms of the ministry and Ontario Medical Association 2021 Physician Services Agreement (PSA). This is a pilot program, and these services are not insured under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

The Secure Messaging PoC aims to:

- meaningfully complement care within existing patient-physician relationships;
- increase access to care; and
- gather a wider scale of evidence related to the use of secure messaging within physician practices in Ontario than has been possible to date.

The Secure Messaging PoC is intended for physicians who have a significant interest in providing services by secure messaging in their practice and are willing to be part of a time-limited, evaluated PoC that will inform the overall strategic approach for secure messaging in Ontario, including (but not limited to) elements such as technology and implementation approaches.



Physician registration is required to submit claims for eligible secure messaging services.

Secure Messaging PoC (Cont'd)

To participate in the Secure Messaging PoC, that will run for a two-year period from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026, **physicians must individually register by July 31, 2024** through the Secure Messaging Proof-of-Concept Pilot page on Ontariohealth.ca:

(www.ontariohealth.ca/secure-messaging-proof-of-concept-pilot). This page also provides further information and resources.

OVCP: Secure Messaging Proof-of-Concept Pilot Billing Guide

<https://www.ontariohealth.ca/sites/ontariohealth/files/OVCP-Secure-Messaging-PoC-Pilot-Billing-Guide.pdf>

New Pediatric Palliative Care Guidance Documents

The Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health (PCMCH), in partnership with the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO), has released new documents to provide guidance and information to healthcare providers and others caring for children and their families at or near end-of-life.



You can find the links to both documents [here](#):

1. [Approaching the End-of-Life: Pediatric Palliative Care Information for Healthcare Providers](#) - Expert Opinion Guidance from the Ontario Pediatric Palliative Care Steering Committee: 2023 Update
2. [Symptom Management for Children Near/At End-of-Life](#) - Expert Opinion Guidance from the Ontario Pediatric Palliative Care Steering Committee: 2023 Update

These documents were developed by the Provincial Paediatric Palliative Care Steering Committee's End-of-Life Symptom Management Guide and End-of-Life Care Fact Sheet Working Group, jointly led by POGO and PCMCH.

Please email ohsupport@burlingtonoht.ca to provide your feedback or request specific information in future issues of the BCPC Links newsletter.

You can learn more about the BOHT and physician updates at burlingtonoht.ca.