

# Investing in Family Doctors

## *Government is investing \$39.6 million to improve access to primary care*

### **Fee Increase – \$11.3 million (fee for service doctors)**

Support ongoing efforts to retain current family doctors and recruit new ones

- Government is investing \$11.3 million to raise the basic office visit rates
  - Basic office visit rate for patients under 65 will move from \$31.72 to \$36.00
  - Basic office visit rate for patients 65 and over will move from \$40.26 to \$44.54
- The rate increase is available to family doctors with an established family practice, or who are establishing a family practice

### **Alternative Payment Plan (APP) Increase – \$2.6 million (contract doctors)**

Help retain family doctors on APPs

- Government is investing \$2.6 million to increase compensation for family doctors under APP contracts
- Compensation will increase corresponding to the overall increase to the fee for service expenditures family doctors are receiving
- This applies to family doctors under APP contracts regardless of whether they are full or part-time, providing they meet a billing threshold

### **Enrolment Incentive Trust – \$6.6 million**

Encourage doctors to develop an up-to-date patient list, on a voluntary basis

- A one-time enrolment incentive of \$7.50 per current patient
- Money will be placed in trust and managed by an independent trustee

### **Patient Attachment Incentive Trust – \$6.4 million**

Better connect Nova Scotians with a family practice

- Offer a one-time incentive of \$150 per patient to doctors for accepting a patient from the 811 *Need a Family Practice* registry
- Also available to family doctors who take on new patients referred from an emergency department, or from a practice where a doctor is retiring or relocating
- Money will be placed in trust and managed by an independent trustee

### **Technology Incentive – \$4.2 million**

A pilot project to deliver telephone and e-health services that will improve access to primary health care, convenience for patients and efficiency for doctors

- Participating family doctors can receive up to \$12,000 a year for using technology to communicate with their patients
- Simplify the billing code requirement for the current non-face-to-face fees (ie: prescription renewal by phone)
- Doctors agree to take part in the pilot evaluation process
- Compensation will be pro-rated for doctors working part-time

### **Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Incentive Trust and EMR Support – \$8.5 million**

Financially support family doctors using electronic medical records, improving overall quality care in a practice

- One-time payment for those family doctors changing electronic medical record providers
- One-time incentive to expedite the EMR transition from Nightingale on Demand (software being phased out)
- \$5.2 million, for the one time payments, will be placed in trust and managed by an independent trustee
- Financial support for EMR users