

## Allied Health Care Professional Pilot Program

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### ***Who is eligible?***

All actively practising family physicians working in a private office setting with an attached patient panel are eligible to apply. This includes both fee-for-service (FFS) and longitudinal family medicine (LFM) physicians. In most circumstances, physicians must be providing more than a 0.5 FTE in-office based practice to be eligible.

Family physicians working in Nova Scotia Health (NSH) turnkey practices are not eligible to apply for this program.

#### ***Can a group of physicians apply for a single Allied Health Care Professional (AHCP), planning to share the AHCP services across the practice?***

Yes, individual physicians or groups of physicians may apply to this pilot program. All physicians in the group must meet the eligibility criteria noted in the Program Guidelines (but not all members of the group must be providing more than a 0.5 FTE in-office based practice).

#### ***Can two or three practices apply, planning to coordinate and share the AHCP services across more than one practice?***

Yes, sharing of resources across multiple practices or groups will be supported.

#### ***What AHCP services can we bill for?***

Physicians approved for the program will be able to bill for clinical services delivered by the AHCP that are within the AHCP's scope. New fee codes will be made available:

- AHCP Service (simple) – \$25
- AHCP Service (complex) – \$52 (approx. 1 hour)

Physicians can bill to a maximum of \$110,000 per year per AHCP.

#### ***Can I apply to bill these codes for an AHCP I already employ at my clinic?***

Yes, practices that already have nursing or AHCP support may apply to this program and have existing providers converted to the program if:

- a) there is an interest in expanding hours/services of existing AHCP(s);
- b) there is a request for a new provider to come into a practice with pre-existing providers and there is a desire to align remuneration approaches of all health providers; or
- c) there is an interest in changing current care pathways within a clinic to allow existing providers to work to full scope while no longer having to meet the MSI *Physician Manual* requirements under the traditional FFS billing approach.

#### ***I'm not sure how to structure an employment arrangement, how to do the hiring, etc. Is there support available?***

Yes, the NSH Practice Support Program is available to support participating practices with template service agreements, process optimization, and so on. This support is not mandatory but it will be available to those interested.

#### ***How long will the pilot run? How do I hire an AHCP knowing the pilot could come to an end?***

At this stage, we know the pilot will run for the duration of the current Physician Agreement (to March 31, 2027). There is always the possibility that the program will be extended if successful, but there is no guarantee. The NSH Practice Support Program team can help physicians develop a service arrangement that protects against the risk of the program ending in 2027.

***If I'm able to attach more patients to my practice as a result of this pilot program, will those additional patients become part of my roster and will I be paid for them?***

Yes, if hiring an AHCP into the practice enables the physician to attach additional patients, those patients will become part of the physician's roster. For LFM family physicians, this increased panel size will increase physicians' bi-weekly panel payments. For FFS family physicians, this will increase their roster, which in turn will increase their rostering grant.

***What if I attach more patients and then I lose the AHCP because the pilot program comes to an end?***

At this stage, we know the pilot will run for the duration of the current Physician Agreement (to March 31, 2027). There is always the possibility that the program will be extended if successful, but there is no guarantee. We recognize that the practice must remain sustainable should the physician lose the support of an AHCP.

***If I'm not ready to take advantage of this opportunity right now, will I be able to apply in future?***

Yes, there will be another opportunity to apply to be part of this pilot program. The application process will open again next year (Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, 2026), for implementation in 2026.

***Why are other regulated health professionals not included in this program?***

For purposes of the pilot program, the focus is on professions that will best enable increased access to primary care. If there is a compelling case for including a regulated health professional not listed here, please email Lisa Bedford, Provincial Manager of the Department of Family Practice, at [lisa.bedford@nshealth.ca](mailto:lisa.bedford@nshealth.ca) to request a review of the proposal.