

Monday, November 25, 2019

PRESS RELEASE: Ontario Medical Students Association Statement on Changes to OHIP Billing in Bill 138

Earlier this month, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 138 [1], which includes significant changes for the OHIP billing process that are intended to increase billing transparency. However, these changes, which have been developed with little consultation with physicians, have also been criticized by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) as administratively burdensome, accusative, and fundamentally unfair to the majority of physicians who bill for their services appropriately [2].

This is an imminent issue that requires the engagement of all Ontario medical students. We encourage all medical students to learn more about Bill 138 and its potential ramifications, and to contact their MPPs to raise the identified concerns as soon as possible. The OMA has compiled an advocacy kit on this issue [3, 4]. In the coming days, we will also be highlighting the key changes outlined in Bill 138 on our social media. The Ontario Medical Students Association stands behind efforts to modernize the OHIP billing process, but maintain that these efforts must be equitable and prioritize the healthcare our future patients.

Furthermore, we strongly believe in the need for medical education to incorporate billing education throughout medical school in order for students to be equipped to contribute fully to the workforce.

For more about Bill 138 or OMSA's advocacy work, please contact representation@omsa.ca.

Sincerely,



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References

1. Bill 138, Plan to Build Ontario Together Act, 2019, *Legislative Assembly of Ontario*.
<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-138>
2. Proposed Changes to OHIP Include Fundamentally Flawed Policies. *Ontario Medical Association*.
https://www.oma.org/member/section/news-&-events/proposed-changes-to-ohip-include-fundamentally-flawed-policies?type=news_items. [OMA login required].

Toolkits / Resources:

3. For more information: <https://www.askontariodoctors.ca/doctor-action>
4. For full advocacy toolkit: www.oma.org/bill138 [OMA login required].