



April 8, 2022

The Honourable Christine Elliott, M.P.P., Minister of Health

Via email

**RE: Extension of Community Physiotherapy Clinic Transfer Payment Agreements**

Dear Minister Elliott,

Physiotherapy clinics across Ontario who have Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) for the Community Physiotherapy Clinic Program (CPC) are beginning to receive letters from the Ministry of Health announcing the extension of the CPC Transfer Payment Agreements for the current and next fiscal years.

It is in keeping with the Ontario Physiotherapy Association's (OPA) longstanding principle to work collaboratively with the Ministry, in the interest of the Ontarians we both serve, that we must share the profound disappointment and distress we are hearing from our community in reaction to those letters.

As we have communicated previously, the delays in receipt of the TPAs implies a lack of respect for, or even acknowledgement of, the challenges faced by the clinics and, have been injurious to their operations and their ability to continue to provide essential treatment to patients. The current TPA expired on March 31, 2022 and, with no commitment as to if, when, or under what terms they might be extended, clinic owners were left with the decision to stop services or face additional financial losses already amplified by the impact of the pandemic. The receipt of the extended TPA more than a week after the previous one expired, means the actual flow of funds to CPCs will be further delayed for an unknown period of time. This does not strike us as conduct consistent with a government that states it understands and is supportive of small and medium-sized businesses.

Most distressing and discouraging for all, who in good faith have stuck with this program despite the many challenges over the years, is the fee increase of 1% per year. Since the \$312 per Episode of Care (EOC) fee has not been adjusted since the CPC program was launched in 2013, this amounts to a fee increase of 0.125% per year over the last eight years. During this same period, the CPI increased at an annualized rate of 2.2%. Inflation over the two years covered by the TPA extension is expected to be in the range of 3-5%.

Our members know that the fee increase is far from enough, especially in consideration of the additional capital and operating costs they have had to absorb in order to



implement government-imposed restrictions and requirements to respond to the pandemic (without being eligible to apply for government subsidies to soften the impact), the increasing complexity of patients being purposely channeled into the CPC program, the threat of financial claw-backs by your Ministry because of unused EOCs due to pandemic restrictions, and the salary increases and bonuses being provided to other healthcare providers. If, as we suspect, Bill 124 was used as the rationale for this increase, we respectfully point out that the provisions of Bill 124 do not apply in this situation.

The promise to review the CPC program is welcome, however, that review has been delayed and pending since 2014. It was promised in 2020 prior to the last extension only to be delayed due to the pandemic.

The CPC program is the only access point for rehabilitation in the community by many vulnerable Ontarians, especially seniors, and will be critical in helping the government achieve its objectives of addressing the surgical and procedural backlogs and in helping Ontario recover from the pandemic. It is valued and strongly supported by physicians and by the healthcare community generally.

We call again for urgent action to address the inadequate fees, to roll unused EOCs into future years, and to immediately initiate the promised program review so that the CPC program can be viable and sustainable for the many Ontarians who depend on it as essential to their function, mobility, and quality of life.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Sauvé".

Dorianne Sauvé  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Ms. France Gélinas, M.P.P.  
Mr. John Fraser, M.P.P.  
Mr. Michael Schreiner, M.P.P.