

Simplified Short Term Service Contract – COVID

Q1: How will I know if the Simplified Service Contract is a good fit for me?

A1: Physicians considering transitioning to the Simplified Service Contract should consider their experience with service volume reductions over the past several months and their expected service volumes over the coming months in order to compare with the hourly rates and maximum payments under the Simplified Service Contract.

Q2: What is the term of a Simplified Short Term Service Contract?

A2: The maximum term of the contract is until December 31, 2021. Shorter terms (e.g. 6 months) can be determined at the local level between the Physician and Health Authority.

Q3: Why are anesthesiologists and emergency physicians ineligible for the Simplified Short Term Service Contract?

A3: The Ministry of Health has a policy objective of transitioning Anesthesia and Emergency Physician groups away from FFS to long term alternative payment arrangements. The Ministry of Health will offer anesthesia and emergency groups long term service contracts that are consistent with other contracted anesthesia and emergency groups.

Q5: Does the Simplified Short Term Service Contract require/guarantee a certain number of hours of service?

A5: No. The Simplified Short Term Service Contract establishes an hourly rate of pay. Physician's working under the contract are required to provide the services that they have historically provided. The maximum number of hours of Service to be paid under this contract is 1,867 hours per year.

Q6: Aside from FFS billings for services provided to WorkSafeBC patients, are any other FFS billings allowed?

A6: No. Fees for any other services provided under the contract are to be billed and assigned to the Health Authority.

Q7: Can physicians switch back and forth between the Simplified Short Term Service Contract and FFS on multiple occasions?

A7: Physicians are free to terminate the contract with 5 days' notice and return to FFS but it is not envisioned that physicians transition multiple times between the compensation modalities during the period they are available (i.e. up to December 31, 2021).

Q8: How is this Simplified Short Term Service Contract different from a conventional Service Contract under the PMA?

A8: The Simplified Short Term Service Contract is different in three main ways:

- While initially based on the Template Service Contract found in the PMA, the Simplified Service Contract has eliminated many of the provisions given the short term nature of the contract.
- Deliverables under the Simplified Service Contract are set as those that have been historically provided rather than negotiated at the local level.
- Payments under the Simplified Service Contract are on the basis of an hourly rate rather than an annual rate.

Q9: How much can I earn under the Simplified Short Term Service Contract?

A9: The Simplified Service Contract utilizes a hourly payment rate that is based on the midpoint of the Service Contract Payment Range (90% of the maximum of the payment range) for the Applicable Practice Category divided by 1680 hours of Service. The maximum number of hours of Service to be paid under this contract is 1,867 hours per year.

The hourly rates as of April 1, 2019 can be found [here](#)

These rates will be retroactively adjusted to account for the April 1, 2020 general increase and the application of increases pursuant to the After Hours Adjudication and the 2019 Allocation Committee processes once they have been completed.

Q10: How does the Simplified Short Term Service Contract address time spent waiting for the clearance of aerosolize particles in the OR?

A10: Surgeons can bill time waiting for clearance of aerosolized particles in the OR under the contract. The start time of the service would begin when the surgeon first sees the patient and ends when the last duties associated with the patient ends.

Q11. Can the Simplified Short Term Service Contract be applied retroactively to the start of COVID?

A11: No, the contract is only available on a go-forward basis.

Q12: Can a physician provide virtual care services under the Simplified Short Term Service Contract?

A12: Yes, services delivered on a virtual basis are permitted under the contract. However, the contract requires the Physician to provide services in accordance with the standards of medical practice. The College of Physicians and Surgeons expects Physicians to adhere to the [Telemedicine Practice Standard](#) which requires Physicians to conduct in-person physical examinations where required/appropriate for the provision of quality health care.