



**COMING IN 2018:
Ministry of Health Blended Billing Guide for Psychiatry**

**Northern Health is implementing a blended billing guide for psychiatry.
The mandate for this comes from the Ministry of Health (MoH).**

Other health authorities in BC are implementing it as well.

The blended billing guide is based on a successful framework implemented by Interior Health.

Who does this impact?

It applies to psychiatrists who are compensated in Northern Health through fee for service (FFS) billing and sessional contract funding.

What changes does this mean for how to bill?

We are not implementing a new billing system, we are providing guidance on which billing codes to use for which services. Psychiatrists will continue to bill through MSP and eSessions. Some billing criteria already provided in eSessions will become mandatory. Working through these changes with you is our focus for 2018.

What is being planned for 2018?

We are planning information and blended billing training sessions for 2018. A range of dates and times for training for psychiatrists and their administrative personnel involved in billing will be available in Spring 2018. We will 'go-live' after training.

Who is involved in implementing the guide?

There is a Project Team with representation from Medical Affairs, Medical Staff Leadership, Operations, IT, Physician Compensation, and Psychiatry to design and guide the implementation. We are also working to meet some pre-implementation milestones from the Ministry of Health.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

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What is Blended Billing?

Blended billing is the use of two (or more) compensation sources to cover distinct activities within a practice. The MoH allows the use of different sources of funding as long as there is no overlap or duplication of payment for each activity.

Why do we need a guide?

Currently, selecting appropriate compensation sources for specific activities can be ambiguous and unclear. So, a blended guide was developed for clarity.

What are the benefits?

The Interior Health experience shows that using the guide resulted for some in an increase in MSP billing. Others saw a decline in the number of sessions being claimed - making other sessional funds available to address other mental health and substance use sessional funding needs.

