



December 19, 2024

Dear Members,

Earlier today, AMA President Dr. Shelley Duggan stood with Minister of Health Adrianna LaGrange and Premier Danielle Smith to announce that PCCM is moving ahead and will be implemented on April 1, 2025. Dr. Duggan explained some of the information regarding the PCCM announcement and new rates for Family Medicine ARPs in today's [President's Letter](#).

To say this is much-anticipated news would be an understatement. The AMA has been working closely with Alberta Health for months to get this across the finish line and has been relentless in pushing the government to make this announcement. It represents countless hours of work and dedication by the AMA Strike Team, which includes members of the Section of Family Medicine, Section of Rural Medicine, PCN Physicians Leads Executive, AMA ARP Working Group as well as AMA staff. I am happy that we can share this information with you before the holiday break, as I know many of you have been waiting for word on the PCCM to make decisions about your practice.

While some of the details announced today differ from what the AMA proposed, the PCCM represents a significant shift in family physician compensation in Alberta. It was created to incentivize comprehensive, longitudinal care by combining payments for patient encounters, physician time, and panel support in a way that addresses some of the limitations inherent in FFS compensation. It recognizes the importance of a continuous relationship between a family physician and their patients, accounts for the increased demands of caring for complex and vulnerable patients, and encourages patient attachment to physician practices. For some family physicians, this option will make it possible for them to keep their clinics viable.

That being said, we know that the PCCM will not be the right compensation model for all family physicians. It requires some legwork to determine if it is the best fit for your practice. To assist you, the AMA and ACTT have developed a [range of resources](#) and change management supports to help physicians understand the PCCM and how it works, and outline the enrolment process. As part of this, they have created a [web-based calculator tool](#) that will help you compare your current billings relative to anticipated billings under the PCCM model. Further, the SFM will be hosting a [virtual information session on Wednesday, January 8](#), where we will walk through the PCCM and provide a demonstration of the calculator. I encourage you to explore the resources and calculator ahead of time, and bring your questions to the information session, where experts from Health Economics are available to help.

Today's announcement is an important step toward helping to stabilize and strengthen family medicine in Alberta. I want to thank everyone who played a role in getting us here today and all of you for your patience as we worked to make this happen.

Section of Family Medicine Bulletin

December 19, 2024

Page Two

The next few weeks will be a busy time for all. For many, the holiday season comes with a desire to focus on time with family and friends. Please do so and be assured that the Section of Family Medicine will be here in the new year, as we start the work of actualizing the PCCM.

Finally, I want to wish you and yours a peaceful and relaxing holiday season. We can all use the break. This year has been extraordinarily challenging in so many ways, but I am hopeful things can and will improve.

I look forward to seeing you at our January 8 PCCM information session and to what comes next.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah Bates, President
Section of Family Medicine
On behalf of your [SFM Executive](#)