

Ontario Health Coalition

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June 21, 2011
For Immediate Release

Attn: Assignment Editor

Protecting Ontarians' Access To Public Health Care McGuinty Government Cracks Down On Illegal Billing For OHIP-Insured Services

The McGuinty government is taking action to ensure Ontarians aren't being charged extra fees to access health care services that are covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

Ontario is stepping up efforts to investigate potential illegal fees that health care providers charge patients for services that are insured by OHIP. In some cases where multiple complaints have been received, Ontario will immediately expand proactive investigations or spot checks. For example, extra fees charged at medical clinics and fees associated with cataract surgery and colonoscopies will be investigated.

A new 1-800 number and email address is available to any Ontarian who believes he or she has been illegally charged for an insured health service. Anyone can make a complaint or ask questions by calling toll-free at 1-888-662-6613 or by emailing protectpublichealthcare@ontario.ca.

In addition, all health care providers will be sent reminder notices to ensure they fully understand their legal obligations to provide equal access to services to all Ontarians - regardless of ability to pay, who they are, or where they live. In instances where there are found to be consistent patterns of extra-billing for insured services the government will look for opportunities to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information: Ontario Health Coalition 416-441-2502.