

MSP Billing: Emergency & Out-of-office Codes

Quick Reference Guide

In this guide, we provide up-to-date information and best practices to help you accurately bill for emergency and out-of-office visits and services in BC.

What are the emergency and out-of-office service codes and surcharges?

Emergency/Out-of-Office Visit

Emergency visits are to be charged only when the physician must immediately leave home, office, or hospital to render immediate care.

Fee Code	Description	Rate
00112	Emergency Visit (call placed between 08:00 and 18:00 hours)	\$134.69
12200	Visit - Out of office (age 0-1)	\$49.69
13200	Visit - Out of office (age 2-49)	\$46.53
15200	Visit - Out of office (age 50-59)	\$49.69
16200	Visit - Out of office (age 60-69)	\$52.05
17200	Visit - Out of office (age 70-79)	\$58.71
18200	Visit - Out of office (age 80+)	\$67.73

Examples

1. A physician is in the office during regular office hours and must immediately leave to see a patient in the hospital.

What visit to bill? 00112 (Emergency visit)

2. A physician is in the office during regular office hours and is asked to meet a 35-year-old patient at the hospital later in the evening.

What visit to bill? 13200 (Visit - out of office, age 2-49)



Call-out Charge Surcharges

To be charged in addition to consultations, procedures or other visits rendered after-hours or on the weekend or statutory holiday.

Fee Code	Description	Rate
01200	Evening (call placed between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours and service rendered between 18:00 hours and 08:00 hours).	\$79.08
01201	Night (call placed and service rendered between 23:00 hours and 08:00 hours).	\$111.05
01202	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (call placed and service rendered between 08:00 hours and 23:00 hours).	\$79.08

Note: A call-out charge (fee code 01200, 01201, 01202) only applies to the first patient seen on any one special visit. Additional patients seen during the same call-out may be eligible for the continuing care surcharges discussed later in this guide.

Examples

1. The physician is at home in the evening. At 22:00 hours, the physician is called to attend to a 20-year-old patient in the hospital immediately, and treatment of the patient begins at 22:20 hours.

What to bill?

Fee Code	Description	Start Time
13200	Visit-out-of-office (age 2-49)	N/A
01200	Evening (call placed between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours and service rendered between 18:00 hours and 08:00 hours).	22:20

2. The physician is on-call for the emergency department and is called from home at 23:00 hours to attend a 40-year-old patient in the emergency room. The physician must leave immediately and arrives at the hospital at 23:30 hours.

What to bill?

Fee Code	Description	Start Time
13200	Visit-out-of-office (age 2-49)	N/A
01201	Night (call placed and service rendered between 23:00 hours and 08:00 hours).	23:30



Non-Operative Continuing Care Surcharges

Non-operative continuing care charges apply when an out-of-office hours 'call-out charge' is applicable or when specially called for an emergency.

Fee Code	Description	Rate
01205	Evening (service rendered between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	\$72.69
01206	Night (service rendered between 23:00 hours and 08:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	\$99.40
01207	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (service rendered between 08:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	\$72.69

Note: Timing starts after the first 30 minutes for consultations, visits, or anesthetic evaluations. Payments are based on half-hour increments or major part thereof, with the first surcharge after 45 minutes of continuous care.

Example

A physician is called from home at 19:00 hours to attend to a 30-year-old patient at the hospital on an urgent basis. The physician arrives at the hospital and begins treatment of the patient at 19:20 hours, leaves the patient at 20:15 hours.

What to bill?

Fee Code	Description	Start Time	End Time
13200	Visit-Out-of-office (age 2-49)	N/A	-
01200	Evening (call placed between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours and service rendered between 18:00 hours and 08:00 hours).	19:20	19:50
01205	Evening (service rendered between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	19:50	20:15

The 30-minute 'refractory period' has passed by 19:50 hours. An additional 25 minutes was spent with the patient, allowing fee code 01205 to be billed. Note that the times provided indicate continuous time spent with the patient. The Claims Processing System records any break in the times billed (even one minute) as a "new" visit. This can result in the 30-minute refractory period being deducted from your payment due to error.



Operative Continuing Care Surcharges

Operative continuing care charges apply to emergency and elective surgeries starting within designated times due to intervening emergency surgery. This only includes surgeries requiring general, spinal, or epidural anesthesia and lasting at least 45 minutes.

Fee Code	Description	Rate
01210	Evening (18:00 hours to 23:00 hours) 44.86% of surgical (or assistant) fee	Min charge- \$65.66 Max charge- \$457.46
01211	Night (23:00 hours to 08:00 hours) 72.02% of surgical (or assistant) fee	Min charge- \$93.12 Max charge- \$734.42
01212	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (service rendered between 08:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	Min charge- \$65.66 Max charge- \$457.46

Anesthesiology Continuing Care Surcharges

Anesthesiology services are eligible for continuing care surcharges when an out-of-office hours 'call-out charge' applies when specially called for an emergency.

Fee Code	Description	Rate
01215	Evening (service rendered between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	\$72.69
01216	Night (service rendered between 23:00 hours and 08:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	\$99.40
01217	Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday (service rendered between 08:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	\$72.69
01112	Anesthetic attendance per 15 minutes or part thereof	\$36.64

Note: Surcharges do not apply to time spent standing by, unless code 01112 is payable and are based on the amount of time providing care, regardless of the number of patients attended or services provided.

General Payment Rules for Continuing Care Surcharges

- Claims must state start and end times.
- Where timing is continuous, submit a note for each patient indicating CCFPP.
- Not applicable to full or part-time emergency practitioners or to on-site practitioners providing coverage in drop-in emergency clinics or hospital ERs.



Continuing Care from Previous Patient (CCFPP)

When more than one patient is seen on the same special call-out, the following rules apply:

- When a physician is called out to attend to more than one patient, the physician may bill non-operative continuing care surcharges (fee items 01205, 01206, 01207) for each half-hour of care provided as long as all the criteria for those fees are met.
- Non-operative continuing care surcharges can be billed immediately for subsequent patients during the same emergency call-out, with no 30-minute time lapse required.
- CCFPP must be noted on the first line of your note record for all claims where care is continuing from a previous patient. If your note record does not indicate "CCFPP" on the first line for these cases, the 30-minute refractory period will be deducted from your payment.

Example

The physician is called at 19:00 on an urgent basis to attend a 10-year-old patient 'A' at the hospital. During the time spent with that patient, the physician is asked to see a 40-year-old patient 'B', who also requires emergency care. Total time spent with the first patient is 30 minutes, and total time spent with the second is also 30 minutes.

What to bill?

Patient	Fee Code	Description	Start Time	End Time	Note
A	13200	Visit-Out-of-office (age 2-49)	-	-	-
A	01200	Evening (call placed between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours and service rendered between 18:00 hours and 08:00 hours).	19:30	-	-
B	13200	Visit-Out-of-office (age 2-49)	-	-	-
B	01205	Evening (service rendered between 18:00 hours and 23:00 hours) – per half hour or major part thereof	20:00	20:30	CCFPP

The total continuous time spent with both patients was 60 minutes. After the initial 30-minute refractory period had expired, 01205 can be billed because the remaining time spent with the patient was a major portion of an additional 30-minute period.