



Here's what your OMA Section, Ontario's Anesthesiologists, has been doing for you...

Dear colleagues,

Member Services & the Ontario Anesthesia Meeting

Thank You for Paying Your Optional Membership Dues

Your support means that we can better advocate for you and your profession. And don't forget that as a paid-up member of the OA, you are eligible for:

- 20% discount on your registration fees for the 2023 Ontario Anesthesia Meeting and Conference Weekend.
- Our Leadership Development Grant program, which provides funding to members who are fostering their leadership skills.

Please [head here](#) to see how else the section is working for you.

Save October 27-29 for the Ontario Anesthesia Meeting and Conference Weekend

- We're working on an engaging academic program that includes interactive workshops as well as current and clinically relevant topics presented by speakers from across the province.
- We're excited for our new venue: The Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre.
- [More details](#) will be shared soon.

Wanted: 2023 OAM Accreditation Chair

The Ontario Anesthesia Meeting and Conference Planning Committee is seeking an Accreditation Chair whose responsibilities include:

- Completing accreditation applications.
- Assisting presenters with completing the accreditation process.
- Assisting OMA staff with the accreditation process and the self-assessment program.

For more details on this crucial role, please [visit this page](#) or contact us at info@ontariosanesthesiologists.ca.

Leadership Development Grant Program Re-Opened

- We're excited to re-launch our [Leadership Development Grant program](#).
- It provides funding to individuals and groups who want to strengthen their leadership skills through formal training.

- This opportunity is open to all FRCPC anesthesiologists, FP-As and anesthesia residents who are practicing in Ontario and paid-up Section members.

Through this program, we hope to:

- Increase the number of anesthesiologists in leadership positions.
- Raise awareness of our value in the health system.
- Champion equity and diversity and expand upon our capacity to influence decisions that optimize patient care.

Member Highlights

WHAT SOME OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO



Department of Anesthesiology & Pain...
@UofTanesthesia

We are excited to welcome Dr. Ronald George to the Department of Anesthesia and Pain Management at Mount Sinai Hospital! Dr. George will take over from Dr. Jose Carvalho as the Head of Obstetrical Anesthesia.

Read more: bit.ly/41sdMPX



PINNACLE Group
@PinnaclePeriop

Congratulations to @PinnaclePeriop Co-Director Duminda Wijeyesundera on his election to @iars360 Board of Trustees! Dr. Wijeyesundera is an anesthesiologist & clinician-scientist @UnityHealthTO @UofTanesthesia @ihpmeuoft - whose research is supported by @CIHR_IRSC @PSIFoundation.



Department of Anesthesiology & Pain...
@UofTanesthesia

Congratulations to Dr. David Mazer who has received the prestigious Cara Phelan Chair in Critical Care Medicine!

Read more: bit.ly/40fwvN6



Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) to see more of what your colleagues are busy with.

Governance

Tariff Report

1. Temporary COVID Funding

On March 31, the temporary COVID funding, including the surge premium E405, is scheduled to be sunset. The Ministry has also informed the OMA that the Physician and Hospital Services for Uninsured Persons program will also end on March 31. The OMA was not consulted about this and has expressed its concerns to the Ministry and requested an extension while other solutions are explored.

2. PSA Implementation

The temporary year 2 PSA increases will also end on March 31. These will be replaced with permanent changes to the Schedule of Benefits. Our Section's increase for the first two years is 1.19 per cent. The final costing report from the PPC was recently received and we are expecting the following changes on April 1. Please note that best efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, but in case there are any

errors, the Schedule of Benefits (scheduled to be published April 1, 2023) is the definitive source.

Expected Fee Changes

Anesthesiologist unit value fee increase:

The unit fee for anesthesiology is being increased from \$15.29 to \$15.49.

Fee increases to Anesthesiology consultation and assessments:

Fee Code	Descriptor	Current Fee Value	New Fee Value
A/C215	Limited consultation for acute pain management in association with special visit to hospital in-patient	\$47.50	\$69.75
A/C015	Consultation	\$107.25	\$109.70
A/C013	Specific assessment	\$47.50	\$64.65

Fee increase to P014C – introduction of catheter for labour analgesia, including first dose: P014C is being increased from six to seven units.

A/C210 special anesthetic consultation: New fee code paid at \$163.20

A new special anesthetic consultation fee is to be introduced at a fee of \$163.20. Like other “special” consultation fees, in order to claim it, one must meet the elements of a consultation and spend a minimum of 50 minutes of direct contact with the patient, exclusive of time spent rendering any other separately billable service or procedure.

Revisions to existing fee codes

- Delist **G222** spinal or epidural injection of narcotic and reinvest savings generated towards increasing **A/C215** limited consultation for acute pain management, **A/C015** consultation and **A/C013** specific assessment
- Delist **E111** (combined spinal-epidural for labour narcotic) and reinvest savings generated towards increasing **P014C** (introduction of catheter for labour analgesia, including first dose) base unit from six to seven units

Other fee changes that may be of interest to anesthesiologists

- **Combine lumbar puncture** fee codes **Z805** and **E871** into **Z804** and set the new fee at \$150
- **GP/FP time-based K-code fee increases (including case conferences):** Increase by 3.5 per cent
- **Critical care comprehensive per diem fees (G557, G558 and G559):** Increase by 2.4 per cent

- **Critical care resuscitation fees (G521, G522, G523, G391 and G395):** Increase between one and eight per cent
- **J069 descriptor revision** to “Percutaneous focal thermal ablation of solid tumours using CT or ultrasound guidance.”

3. Relativity

The Section chairs recently met with the OMA Relativity Advisory Committee (RAC) for an update and education session on their progress with the FAIR model (fee-adjusted income relativity). Any interested members can [view the presentation and associated documents](#).

Your executive will be meeting to consider what we have heard and will be providing appropriate feedback.

4. Negotiations 2024

This month, the OMA launched its [new negotiations page](#) on the website. With the appointment of the negotiating task force (NTF) and the naming of its new chair and vice-chair, Drs. Mizdrak and Kapur, the section expects that members and the section executive will receive invitations to provide input to them to help inform the next negotiations mandate. This engagement should occur this Spring. While members will engage via a survey, in the past, the executive has met with them in person. In advance of our submission to the NTF, we hope to reach to our membership to gain your perspective prior to making that submission so please watch for an invitation to participate in both the individual NTF survey and to provide feedback to the section to inform our submission.

Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations

Political Advocacy

- Next week, please watch your inbox for the latest Chair’s Report, which will summarize the section’s recent political advocacy efforts.

Updates from the Anesthesia Health Human Resources Working Group

- The section is united with the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society (CAS) on the position that anesthesia must be led by physicians and that a one-to-one model of anesthesia delivery is the only acceptable kind for deep sedation and general anesthetics.
- This working group is crafting a forthcoming background paper and position statement that will aid in further defining our members as physician leaders of anesthesia care.

Updates from the Environmental Sustainability Working Group

Members of the ESWG assisted the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society Committee on Standards develop a new Guidelines for Environmental Sustainability section for the 2023 Revised Edition of the Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia. We are proud of our members for their continued leadership of and contributions to innovative, safe and sustainable care.

[Read the Special Announcement: Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia—Revised Edition 2023](#)

[View the full 2023 CAS Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia](#)

The ESWG has been working on a draft position statement on applying circular economy principles to the procurement and use of operating room supplies. Working group members have also been collaborating with [CASCADES](#) on the creation of project charters related to extended breathing circuits, reusable LMAs and eliminating desflurane.

Patient Care

New Blog Post Up

The second entry in our blog, aimed at better informing stakeholders and the public on the crucial role anesthesiologists play in our health-care system, [is now live](#). If you are active on social media, please share this and future posts.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

[National Advanced Skills and Training Program for Rural Physicians](#)

Participants identify their own training needs & learning opportunities.

This program:

- Provides fund training opportunities to rural physicians, including specialists.
- Aims to enable participants to meet specific community needs and reduce the need for patient transport out of communities to receive these services.

[Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Earth Day Webinar](#)

April 22, 12pm-1:30pm

On Zoom

"Examine how changes in climate affect the care we provide as anesthesiologists. Furthermore, they will discuss sedation techniques over general anesthesia."

This event is also, "an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society. You may claim a maximum of 1.5 hours (credits are automatically calculated)."

[Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Annual Meeting](#)

June 9-12, 2023

Québec City Convention Centre, Québec City, PQ

[Registration now open \(early bird deadline April 19\)](#)



The 2023 program will include:

- Keynote speakers and dozens of engaging sessions, problem-based learning discussions (PBLDs), test-enhanced learning sessions and workshops, featuring leading experts
- Residents' and Richard Knill Oral Competitions and the Awards Ceremony
- High quality poster presentations
- CAS Annual Business Meeting
- A lively exhibit hall filled with personal interactions between attendees and exhibitors

We hope this e-newsletter has been informative. As always, if you have any comments or questions for the Section and the Executive, please reach out to us at info@ontariosanesthesiologists.ca.

Sincerely,

Ontario's Anesthesiologists
A Section of the Ontario Medical Association

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Mission

To advocate for and represent the best interests of Ontario's anesthesiologists. To strengthen the leadership role of anesthesiologists within the health system.

Vision

Anesthesiologists as leading partners, delivering the highest standards of innovative, safe and sustainable patient care.

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