



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

June 19, 2020

### Update on Pandemic Work Disruption Policy (PWDP) and Virtual Care

Late this afternoon Minister Haggie sent a letter (see below) to the NLMA addressing several issues:

1. the Pandemic Workplace Disruption Policy will be extended only to July 6, 2020;
2. the virtual care code will be extended to October 1, 2020; and
3. a potential supply of PPE for community-based physicians separate from RHA inventories may soon be available, but will be subject to cost recovery pricing.

As this news has only just arrived, the NLMA has not completed its assessment and response to the Minister. We wanted you to have this information as quickly as possible, especially the news about the PWDP, as it will have a major impact on the revenue to many physicians, and appropriate planning by physicians will be necessary if this decision is not modified.

Needless to say, this was a unilateral government decision without any consultation or discussion with the NLMA regarding the impact on physicians. The NLMA had communicated to the government that an extension to October 1st with the discretion to continue it further if still required. It is clearly evident that many practices will suffer major revenue deficiencies during the resumption of normal services. Virtual care is not a substitute for many physicians.

We ask that you share your reaction with us by emailing [nlma@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:nlma@nlma.nl.ca).

We have a meeting scheduled with the Minister on June 24th and we will be raising these issues at that time. We will also be holding a special board meeting to prepare a response.

The NLMA will be in regular contact with you as we work through the implications and next steps.

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***Representing and supporting a united medical profession and providing leadership  
in the provision of excellent health care in Newfoundland and Labrador***

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