



Connect Care Professional Billing Supports

Why Professional Billing in Connect Care?

Many physicians track, record and 'bill' for services rendered, even when employed by Alberta Health Services (AHS) or contracted through alternate reimbursement plans. To be accepted, claims must detail patient diagnoses, case complexity, related claims, etc., ... all with the right billing codes. To the extent that this chore can be integrated with Connect Care workflows, physician burdens are eased.

Do Physicians have to Bill through Connect Care?

Connect Care offers opportunity, without obligation. Physicians fall into 3 broad groups:

1. **Independent:** providers who practice and bill independently, but use Connect Care as their record of care, can continue their current professional billing service; perhaps facilitated by data capture and extracts from Connect Care.
2. **ARP or AMHSP:** providers contracted through alternate reimbursement plans may need to comply with the billing arrangement their practice group undertakes, which could include a requirement to record all billings through Connect Care.
3. **AHS-funded:** providers fully employed by, or in total compensation contracts with AHS already have billing services provided by AHS, and these will shift to Connect Care.

Most physicians can continue to bill as they currently do. There may be new options for some physicians to use Connect Care to make the work of third-party billing easier.

Who will have access to billing data?

By keeping professional billing to its own activity Connect Care, the associated data can be treated as a confidential collection. The Information Stewardship Committee (with professional association representation) oversees protection of access to and use of that information. The data is not used for reporting; other than physician-initiated personal reporting. If AHS manages billing processes for a physician, only the billing team has access to the billing data.

How is Professional Billing Facilitated by Connect Care?

There are two needs to consider: how claims are documented, and how claims are managed. Connect Care serves either or both needs:

- **Option 1: Independent Documentation & Independent Management**
This is the fully independent option, where physicians track services outside of the CIS (e.g., with personal index cards or lists) and work with 3rd party billing services to submit the claims to government and manage the results. There are no Connect Care billing-related activities.
- **Option 2: Connect Care Documentation & Independent Management**
This option requires physicians to use an integrated CIS service code (claim) capture tool that is part of charting workflows. They are then able to generate a 'report' listing all billing events that can be shared (paper or electronic) with their independent billing service which submits and manages the claims. The work of charge capture is Connect Care facilitated.
- **Option 3: Connect Care Documentation & Connect Care Management**
This option also involves charge (billing code) capture within the CIS. However, there is no need for an external billing service. Submissions go directly (electronically) to Alberta Health and any claim management is facilitate by AHS teams using CIS billing software. Everything is integrated.

More Information

- [Manual: Professional Billing](#)