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<b>Subject:</b> Christmas 2010 claim processing and payment schedule/Holidays designated in lieu	<b>Reference:</b> n/a	

**To: all practitioners and billing staff**

**Christmas 2010 claim processing and payment schedule**

- The Alberta Health and Wellness office will be closed from Friday, December 24 to Tuesday, December 28, 2010, inclusive, and on Monday, January 3, 2011.
- Alberta Health and Wellness telephone numbers using interactive voice recognition (IVR) technology will be operational during the office closure period; however, department staff will not be available during that time.
- H-Link will be able to accept claims from submitters during the office closure period; however, claims will not be processed during that time.
- Claims assessed during the period December 10 to 16, 2010 will be paid December 24, 2010.
- Payments will not be issued on Friday, December 31, 2010.
- The next expected payment date will be on Friday, January 7, 2011, and will include claims assessed during the period December 17 to 30, 2010. Regular payments will resume from this date forward.
- All accredited submitters will be advised of this claims processing schedule.

**Alternate Relationship Plans (ARP) payment schedule – applies to physicians only**

- Alberta Health and Wellness online services will be able to accept Sessional ARP invoices during the office closure period; however, the invoices will not be processed during that time.
- Payments will not be issued on December 31, 2010.
- For ARPs that are paid weekly, processing dates December 17 to 23, 2010 and December 29 to 30, 2010 will have an expected payment date of January 7, 2011.
- For ARPs that are paid semi-monthly, the expected payment date for the mid-month payment will be December 24, 2010.
- ARPs that are paid monthly will not be affected by the office closure period. The first expected payment date in the new year will be January 14, 2011.

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**Holidays designated in lieu – applies to physicians, oral surgeons/dentists and podiatric surgeons**

As described in the General Rules in the Schedule of Medical Benefits, Schedule of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Benefits and Schedule of Podiatric Surgery Benefits, where a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Minister shall designate another day as the holiday.

As the Christmas Day and Boxing Day holidays fall on a Saturday and Sunday in 2010 and as the New Year's Day holiday falls on a Saturday in 2011, other days have been designated as holidays in lieu for the purposes of claiming services such as unscheduled services. The designated holidays are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Designated holiday</u>
December 25, 2010	December 27, 2010
December 26, 2010	December 28, 2010
January 1, 2011	January 3, 2011

**Physicians please note:** Explicit SURT modifier TDES (After hours time premium designated holidays) applies to claims for health service code 03.01AA (After hours time premium) provided between 0700 and 2200 hours on a day designated as a holiday. Therefore, claims for 03.01AA provided on December 27 or 28, 2010 or January 3, 2011, during the time period 0700 to 2200 hours may be submitted with modifier TDES.

Please refer to the Modifier Definitions section of the Schedule of Medical Benefits for more information about SURT modifiers.