

Letter to MOH-OMA Bilateral Physician Services Committee

June 9, 2026

Email to: Ontario Ministry of Health / Ontario Medical Association Physician Services Committee

Copy to: Dr. Sharon Bal, OMA Board Chair
Kimberly Moran, Chief Executive Officer
Nicole Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, Clinical Care and Delivery
NTF (OMA/MOH)
SGFP Executive

Subject: Request for Update on Implementation of the Patient Attachment Bonus

Dear Members of the MOH-OMA Bilateral Physician Services Committee,

The Section on General and Family Practice (SGFP) of the Ontario Medical Association is writing on behalf of family physicians across Ontario to request an update on the implementation of the Patient Attachment Bonus announced as part of the 2024–2028 Physician Services Agreement. With an effective date of July 1, 2025, the bonus has now been outstanding for nearly one year, and physicians have yet to receive a billing code, implementation guidance, or a communicated timeline for rollout. Given the province's stated commitment to expanding attachment to primary care, clarification and action are urgently required. Family physicians now require certainty regarding implementation given the delays to date.

The SGFP respectfully requests that the Bilateral Physician Services Committee provide:

- An update on the status of the Patient Attachment Bonus implementation;
- A timeline for the release of the associated billing code and administrative guidance; and,
- Confirmation that payments will be fully retroactive to July 1, 2025, as previously communicated.

The SGFP's membership is largely comprised of family physicians practising in Patient Enrolment Models (PEMs), many of whom are actively engaged in providing comprehensive, longitudinal primary care and accepting new patients. These physicians remain central to the province's commitment to improve patient attachment and access to care.

The Patient Attachment Bonus was introduced as an important mechanism to support physicians who take on unattached patients and expand access to comprehensive

primary care. At a time when approximately 1.9 million Ontarians remain without meaningful access to a family physician, the timely implementation of this commitment is particularly important.

Ontario has long recognized the value of attachment incentives and has previously implemented enrolment and attachment-related codes through OHIP. The absence of a clear rollout timeline has created uncertainty for family doctors seeking to expand access to unattached patients.

The importance of attachment is also reflected in the priorities expressed by Ontarians. For example, findings from the OurCare initiative demonstrate a strong preference for ongoing relationships with a family doctor and for care that is comprehensive, continuous, and coordinated over time. Patients need more than episodic access; they are seeking enduring relationships with family physicians who know them and can oversee their care across settings and stages of life.

The SGFP supports the mandate of the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT) and the province's goal of attaching more Ontarians to primary care. However, achieving that goal requires alignment between system-level investments and physician-level incentives. Team-based care expansion and physician attachment incentives need to function as complementary components of a single strategy. The Patient Attachment Bonus is one of the practical tools intended to support that alignment by encouraging physicians to expand access while reinforcing the province's broader attachment objectives.

The SGFP would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter directly with the Committee. We remain committed to working collaboratively with government, the OMA, and system partners to ensure that every Ontarian has access to a family physician. Timely implementation of the Patient Attachment Bonus would provide an immediate and tangible contribution toward Ontario's attachment goals while reinforcing confidence in the commitments made through the Physician Services Agreement.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Barber
Chair, Section on General and Family Practice (SGFP)

Dr. Salesh Budhoo
Tariff Lead, Section on General and Family Practice (SGFP)