

Primary maternity fee increases for rural and complex modules of care: Questions and answers

What's changing?

From 1 October 2020, the Ministry of Health is increasing primary maternity fees for Lead Maternity Carers (LMCs), for modules of care that relate to rural services and complex cases. Twelve of the 44 modules of care are affected.

These increases recognise the additional time some LMCs spend travelling to provide services to women in rural locations, and care LMCs provide for complex cases in the third trimester.

Which modules have fee increases?

The following rural and complex care modules are increasing:

- LMC Third Trimester Full
- LMC Third Trimester First Partial
- LMC Third Trimester Last Partial
- LMC Semi Rural Full
- LMC Semi Rural First Partial
- LMC Semi Rural Last Partial
- LMC Rural Full
- LMC Rural First Partial
- LMC Rural Last Partial
- LMC Remote Rural Full
- LMC Remote Rural First Partial
- LMC Remote Rural Last Partial

How much is the increase?

The amount increased varies from module to module, and ranges between 57% to 70%. The fee schedule provides you with the new amount paid for each module (available at health.govt.nz/publication/primary-maternity-services-notice-2007)

Who is affected?

LMCs who deliver any of the twelve modules.

When will the increase come in?

The increased fees are introduced on 1 October 2020. They will be applied retrospectively to the affected modules of care delivered by LMCs from 1 July 2020.

LMC midwives who have already submitted claims for payment from 1 July 2020 for any of the 12 modules will receive the increased fee as back pay, in February 2021. Affected midwives should expect to receive communication from the Ministry by mid-January 2021.

Does this increase mean any change to the level or type of care provided?

No.

Is this the only fee increase this year?

No. An increase of 2.18% for all modules came into effect from 1 July 2020. This increase reflected cost pressures adjustments as determined by Labour Cost Index and Consumer Price Index for the 2020/2021 financial year.

What happens next?

If you have completed and submitted claims for any of the modules of care affected by this fee increase from 1 July and you are due back pay, you will receive a letter from the Ministry of Health advising you of the amount by mid-January 2021.

Please use the new fee schedule when submitting claims for payment.

Are there more fee increases to come?

The Ministry is currently consulting on plans on further changes to primary maternity services and welcomes submissions by Friday 13 November, via [health.govt.nz/publication/primary-maternity-services-notice-review-2021](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/primary-maternity-services-notice-review-2021)

This review of Section 88 will enable the full application of Budget 2020's new funding for community maternity services.

Who do I talk to for more information?

In the first instance, contact the Ministry of Health. Please email primarymaternity@health.govt.nz or call 0800 855 066 (select Option 2 when prompted).