

Photocopy and BCMA Rates

Photocopying rates

To make the billing process simpler, the Legal Services Society (LSS) is moving to a single photocopy rate for all tariffs. LSS will pay all billings *received on or after April 1, 2001* as follows:

Photocopying

- No prior authorization is required.
- Claim up to \$0.12 per page. **0157**
- Record the total copies made.
- Claim the reasonable cost paid to an arm's-length third party and attach invoices. **1826**
- Claim copies made at courthouses at the actual cost up to \$1.00 per page. **0497**

Any submittals received before April 1, 2001 will be processed at the old rate.

BCMA rates

Further to our March 2000 Notice to Counsel re BCMA and Duty Counsel Rates, as of April 1, 2001, LSS will pay the BCMA rates effective on that date in accordance with our usual practice. To date, the only changed rates we have been advised of are for specialists' and general practitioners' fees (see page 14 of the Disbursements for All Tariffs section). These rates will increase as follows:

	Code
– General practitioners	
\$144 per hour for up to two hours preparation plus court time	1651
\$82 per hour for travel time	1250
– Specialists	
\$169 per hour for up to two hours preparation plus court time	1751
\$96 per hour for travel time	1760

LSS has reviewed its support for BCMA rates on several occasions and concluded each time that the Society needed to adapt its rates to BCMA rates to ensure that counsel who require medical legal services are able to obtain them. Unfortunately, because of inadequate funding, we are unable to pay the Medical Expert Witness Billing Fees and Guidelines negotiated between the BCMA and the BC government. We have advised the government that we will pay in accordance with these guidelines if our funding is increased to cover the costs.

Please note that LSS does not pay any block or cancellation fees under BCMA rates and that prior authorization is required for travel fees and expenses, as well as for most preparation and court time, subject to the exceptions set out on page 14 of the Disbursements for all Tariffs section.

Mark Benton
Director of Tariff