

ACTIONS to reduce unnecessary administrative burden for Nova Scotia's doctors

Unnecessary administrative burden affects doctors in many ways: their ability to take on additional patients, their productivity, work-life balance, and job satisfaction. Government understands the need to remove some of this burden and is taking action.

By the end of 2023, we will reduce the unnecessary administrative burden doctors face by 50,000 hours a year, the equivalent of 150,000 patient visits.

More than a dozen actions are underway to meet the target and, most importantly, give doctors more time to do what they do best – take care of patients. These actions include reducing duplicative or overly complex forms, improving out-of-date processes, and working to ensure that doctors are doing work only they can do; work that cannot be done by other healthcare providers or support staff.

Action	Description	Status
Improve the Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) Medical Assessment Form	This form, used by Income Assistance clients to access additional health-related supports through Community Services, has been improved to reduce back and forth with doctors and to allow for tailored forms requesting only relevant sections for each client. Additionally, ESIA will be increasing the compensation provided to doctors for completion of the medical forms. The fee increase is anticipated before the end of the calendar year.	
Simplify Credentialing for the IWK	The IWK moved its credential application process from being paper-based to an easy-to-access and complete online system in June 2022.	
Simplify the Maternal Serum Screening Process	The form and lab work will transition over time from being completed twice during pregnancy to once, in the patient's first trimester. This improvement, in place in other provinces, upholds patient care and safety while reducing time for the patient, doctor and lab technicians.	
Improve the Short-Term Illness Benefit Application Form for Government Employees	Doctors and other stakeholders will be consulted on how to streamline or improve this frequently completed form for ease and faster completion.	
Improve Pharmacare Exception Status Drug Request Forms	High-volume Exception Status Drug forms, including for Non-Insulin Antidiabetic Agents and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Therapy, will be improved.	

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Introduce the Medavie Portal	All Exception Status Drug forms will be added to a new online portal for easier access and submission for doctors.	
Update the Nova Scotia Health (NSH) By-laws	Updates to the NSH by-laws, which govern privileging and credential processes, are underway and will move credentialing applications from paper-based to online.	
Eliminate Duplication of Test Results	The process for communicating test results (i.e., lab reports and blood bank reports) will move to an online portal, eliminating the need for paper-based reports.	
Empower Healthcare Professions to Operate Within their Full Scopes of Practice in Primary Care	A pilot project is examining scopes of practice within some clinics. The aim is to educate and empower all healthcare providers to undertake work they are trained and approved to do. This will redirect some work from doctors to other healthcare professionals to give doctors more time to do work only they can do.	
Review Use of Sick Notes in Nova Scotia Health	A review of NSH's policies is underway to amend or eliminate their sick note requirement for incidental illness up to three days. When a note is necessary, the sick note form will be streamlined to reduce the time it takes to complete.	
Introduce Auto-fill Capabilities for Common Forms in the EMR	Auto-fill capabilities will be introduced for some specific and high-volume forms in the EMR system.	
Simplify Hiring and Intake in Nova Scotia Health	NSH is removing the need for vulnerable sector checks for incoming doctors and eliminating the need for doctors to sign off on vaccination records for new staff.	
Improve the Report of Child Abuse Form	Doctors and other stakeholders will be consulted on how to streamline, standardize across government and healthcare providers, and digitize the form.	
Improve the Medical Report on Adopting Applicant and the Medical Report on Foster Applicant Forms	Doctors and other stakeholders will be consulted on how to combine and shorten these forms.	
Evaluate the Use of the Medical Status Report Form	This form accompanies Long-Term Care applications and must be regularly updated. With input and guidance from stakeholders, the form's need and effectiveness will be evaluated.	



Complete



In Progress



Planning Stage