

Dr Norman H. Gelpke 1927–2016



Dr Norman H. Gelpke, my brother, was a well-known North Shore orthopaedic surgeon. Dr Gelpke was born in Croydon, England,

and graduated from the University of London (St Mary's Hospital Medical School). He was an outstanding gymnast and boxer in school and college, and was British Universities light-

weight boxing champion and played scrum-half at St Mary's and for the Rosslyn Park Football Club. He also gained a certain notoriety as an undergraduate by capturing a London bobby's helmet on Guy Fawkes Day and climbing up the Houses of Parliament to place it on top of the steeple.

Dr Gelpke served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps with Commonwealth forces in Korea. He was in the first wave of orthopaedic surgeons to do joint replacements and spent time training with the pioneers of hip surgery, Sir John Charnley in Wrightington; Mr McKee in Norwich; and others at Oswestry, Lon-

don, Toronto, and Salt Lake City. Dr Gelpke also carried out volunteer work in Dominica and Africa.

Dr Gelpke was a keen and expert skier and set up the Doctor on the Hill program in Whistler. He was also a founder of the British Orthopaedic Ski Association, which has met since the 1960s at Zurs in the Austrian Arlberg.

Dr Gelpke was a gregarious, generous, and charming host and took great interest in his friends and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Susie, and two other brothers.

—Paul M. Gelpke, MB, FRCP
Victoria

billing tips

New Laboratory Services Act: What does it mean for physicians?

The Laboratory Services Act (LSA) came into effect on 1 October 2015. The LSA replaces the Medicare Protection Act (MPA) and the Hospital Insurance Act as the authority for insuring laboratory services. It consolidates responsibilities for the governance, funding, and service delivery oversight of all publicly funded laboratory services in the province.

While the enrolment, auditing, and patterns of practice of referring practitioners remain under the MPA, the LSA reinforces an item of par-

ticular significance to physicians in Section 54: Recovery from referring practitioner.

Be sure you are familiar with the following facts when ordering laboratory services:

- A laboratory service is only a benefit when done at the request of a referring practitioner.
- There must be a corresponding insured benefit under the MPA in order for the referral to be valid under the LSA.
- A recovery can be made from a referring practitioner if a payment is made in violation of this prohibition.

Also, be aware of which payment method is selected on the lab requisition. MSP is the default payee if an alternative payee (ICBC, WorkSafe BC, patient-pay) is not selected, and some EMRs may default to billing

MSP. If an inaccurate payment method is selected it could result in the cost of the test being recovered from you, the referring practitioner.

You are encouraged to read Sections 52–54 of the LSA; this information may have a significant impact on the recovery process for the cost of lab tests that are not evidence-based or are ordered as a benefit for nonbenefit visits.

For more information about the Laboratory Services Act, go to www.gov.bc.ca/laboratoryservices.

In the next issue of the *BCMJ* we will provide examples of circumstances under which recovery for lab-test costs may be sought.

—Keith J. White, MD
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Committee

This article is the opinion of the Patterns of Practice Committee and has not been peer reviewed by the BCMJ Editorial Board. For further information contact Juanita Grant, audit and billing advisor, Physician and External Affairs, at 604 638-2829 or jgrant@doctorsofbc.ca.