



*Government of Bermuda*

Ministry of Health, Seniors and Environment

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, SENIORS AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Honourable Jeanne J. Atherden, JP, MP

On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Bermuda Hospitals Board (Medical and Dental Charges) Order 2015**

**Mr. Speaker** and Honourable Members, in July 2015 the Bermuda Hospitals Board (Medical and Dental Charges) Order 2015 was gazetted. The Order is reviewed annually, setting the fees physicians and dentists may charge for healthcare delivered at the Bermuda Hospitals Board.

**Mr. Speaker**, Section 13A of the Bermuda Hospitals Board Act 1970 sets out the procedure for setting the fees in the Medical and Dental Charges Order.

- 13 A (1) states that "The Minister shall determine a scale of fees which shall be charged by medical and dental practitioners for the treatment of patients in hospitals and for any course of treatment partly in and partly outside the hospitals."
- 13 A (2) states that "The Minister may consult such persons or bodies he considers appropriate in determining the scale of fees under subsection (1)."

**Mr. Speaker**, the Ministry requested that the Bermuda Health Council consult with relevant professional bodies on changes to the Bermuda Hospitals Board (Medical and Dental Charges) Order 2015.

**Mr. Speaker,** I would like to stress that for physicians, the Order has not been changed in at least two years. By not marginally adjusting the Order year on year to combat rising inflation and costs of medical supplies, the value of the dollars in revenue received by physicians to support the services they deliver has decreased. These decreases are in addition to a physician sector that declined by 15% in 2013. A request for the rate increase is linked to service quality and access to care for patients. For dentists, the Bermuda Dental Association continues to support using the Ontario Dental Association Fee Guides with annual adjustments on an on-going basis.

**Mr. Speaker,** with the agreement of the Health Insurance Association of Bermuda, the Bermuda Medical Doctors Association and the Bermuda Dental Association, the 2015 Order sets an increase of 3% for medical procedures and determines dental rates based on the 2015 Ontario Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide for General Practitioners and the 2015 Ontario Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide for Certified Pediatric Dentists.

Thank you, **Mr. Speaker.**