

# **Staff Parking Rates**

## **Questions and Answers**

November 18, 2009

## How are parking services administered in Alberta Health Services?

Parking Services falls under the area of Clinical Support Services and within the Protective Services portfolio. The creation of AHS Parking Services followed the provincial consolidation of health care under AHS on April 1, 2009. AHS Parking Services is working toward the creation of a province-wide parking service that is efficient, consistent, fair and equitable to patients, visitors, staff, physicians and all others who require parking at health care facilities in Alberta. The creation of a provincial framework for parking fees is one-step towards this goal.

## Will parking always be available for everyone who requests it?

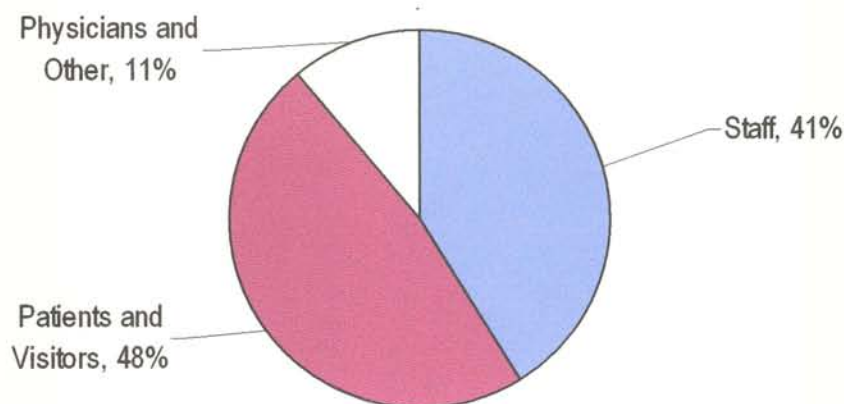
Parking is limited at most AHS sites, and demand for parking space usually exceeds supply. Parking Services is committed to the fair and equitable allocation of parking resources. However, the limited supply of parking requires Parking Services to set priorities for parking access.

## How is parking funded in Alberta Health Services?

Parking is an ancillary service, which means that no government-provided health care dollars can be used to build, lease, maintain or administer parking. All parking-related costs must be fully recovered through fees collected from users of the service. Parking Services must also fully fund all major repairs to parking facilities and all costs associated with any new facilities that are planned and constructed.

## Where does parking revenue come from?

Parking revenue is received from all users of parking services, including patients and visitors, staff, physicians, contractors, and others. The chart below illustrates the estimated proportion of revenue from these sources.



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### **What costs are associated with parking?**

Costs associated with providing and maintaining parking structures at Alberta Health facilities include regular annual maintenance (such as asphalt and concrete repair, line painting and grading), facility cleaning and painting, signage and lighting maintenance and repair, utilities, security, equipment purchase, maintenance and repair, snow removal, elevator maintenance, staffing and contractor costs, enforcement expenses, and servicing of debt.

### **How were the new staff parking rates determined?**

Parking Services conducted an extensive market analysis of parking rates across Canada, comparing communities of similar size and market conditions. After reviewing current AHS parking rates in light of this analysis, a decision was made to increase staff parking rates to a maximum of 20%. To ensure that rates are comparable for sites of similar size and community circumstances, some adjustments were made within the 20% cap.

As the provincial Parking Services program evolves, additional sites/sectors may experience rate increases in the next fiscal year. To ensure that rates continue to be fair and equitable, AHS policy requires that an annual review of parking rates be conducted in conjunction with an updated market analysis.

### **Why are staff parking rates changing?**

Parking-related costs have increased significantly over the past few years, and rates have unfortunately not kept pace in many cases with the local and national economy. Even with these increases, AHS parking rates remain competitive with rates at other local and national hospitals and parking authorities in comparable communities.

### **When will the new rates take effect?**

The new rates will become effective January 4, 2010.

### **Are all AHS sites affected?**

At this time, the new rates will be in effect at AHS sites that currently charge staff for parking with one addition -- the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie. As the transition to a provincial parking administration continues, Parking Services will continue to review parking at all facilities.

### **Will my method of payment change?**

There will be no changes in the method of payment.

If your worksite currently deducts your parking fees at an hourly rate based on hours worked or hours paid, you will continue to be charged for parking on this basis. (This includes worksites in Edmonton, Calgary, St. Albert and Leduc.)

If your worksite parking charges are currently structured as a flat monthly fee, you will continue to be charged on that basis. Part time staff will pay 50% of the monthly fee. Casual employees will be eligible for the FT rate only. Full time and part time rates will be applied as follows:

- Part time parking rate                      Staff working 0.5 FTE or less
- Full time parking rate                        Staff working more than 0.5 FTE

### **Are parkers who pay annual fees affected?**

Some staff who are not paid through AHS payroll (such as physicians and contracted workers) are charged for parking on an annual basis. Prepaid annual fees for the current year will not be affected. Once the new rates are in effect, any new annual fee parkers will be charged a prorated amount based on the new fee schedule.

### **How often will parking rates be adjusted?**

Parking Services is required by AHS policy to conduct an annual market analysis and rate review to determine whether rate adjustments are necessary

### **I'd rather not drive to work. What are my options?**

Consider carpooling, transit, cycling or walking to work, if feasible. Depending on your worksite, there may be an organized carpool or transit pass program, and many facilities have end-of-trip amenities such as showers and locker rooms available to accommodate commuters who wish to combine their commute with a fitness activity such as cycling. Contact your site's parking office to find out more.

### **Are there parking regulations that I must follow when parking at an AHS facility?**

Development of provincial regulations is underway. In the interim, your worksite's existing regulations, policies and/or procedures remain in force. Please contact your site's parking office for further information.

### **I have more questions or concerns. Whom should I contact?**

Please email your questions or concerns to [ProvincialParking@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:ProvincialParking@albertahealthservices.ca).