

2024 Holiday Billing

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Emergency Department Equivalent Codes (A888/Q888)

- **Eligible dates:** December 25-31, 2024, and January 1, 2025.
- No additional eligible days this year (holidays do not fall on weekends).
- A888 and Q888 must adhere to all usual billing criteria during this time.

NOTE:
Last billing cut-off is
December 13, 2024.

Weekend Access (Q888) Code

Q888 allows FHO physicians to bill for unscheduled in-person care on weekends and holidays.

Patient Eligibility: Must be enrolled either to the billing physician's or the physician's FHO group.

Service Type: Unscheduled in-person visits only (no virtual visits).

Schedule Requirement: At least three scheduled visits per three-hour block on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays.

Billing Details: A valid diagnostic code is required.

To learn more about how to bill the Weekend Access (Q888) code and the difference between the Q888 and the A888 code, [download our quick reference guide here.](#)

Emergency Department Equivalent (A888) Code

Purpose: Used for urgent, unscheduled care outside hospital emergency departments (e.g. urgent care centers, walk-in clinics) during weekends and holidays.

Eligibility:

- Any pre-arranged appointment, even same-day, is considered scheduled and ineligible for A888.
- Physicians billing A888 must not have any scheduled patients for the day.

Example Scenario:

Situation: A non-enrolled, unscheduled patient receives an intermediate assessment on a Sunday. The physician has no pre-scheduled patients, is not on call, and the weekend after-hours block is fulfilled.

Billing: The physician can bill A888 if all requirements are met.

After-Hours Requirements for FHO Groups

Weekday Obligation

- At least one physician must work after 5:00 pm during the work week, based on the FHO group's size.

Weekend Billing

- After weekday after-hours requirements are met, weekend physicians can bill Q888 for eligible 3-hour service blocks.
- Once weekend after-hours minimums are met, physicians may switch to billing A888 when applicable.

Example Scenario:

Situation: A rostered patient receives an intermediate assessment on a Saturday, but the required weekend after-hours blocks have not been completed.

Billing: Bill Q888 for the assessment and include the Q012 after-hours premium.

Q012 Premium Code

A Q012 premium code adds a 30% premium to eligible services (A001, A003, A004, A007, A008, A888, K005, K013, K017, K030, K033, K130, K131, K132, K133, Q050 and Q888) for enrolled patients during FHO after-hours (before 8:00 am and after 5:00 pm).

NOTE: On **December 25, 26, and January 1**, the Q012 code can be billed with A888/Q888 at any time.

Key Rules:

- One Q012 allowed per patient visit. Submitting more results in a “Maximum number of services” error.
- Q012 must be included on the same claim as the visit. Submitting it separately leads to a “Not allowed alone” error.

Common Error & Explanation Codes

I6 – Premium is not applicable due to patient not being enrolled

This error occurs because the patient must be enrolled to bill Q888 and Q012. You will need to retroactively enroll the patient with the Q200 code and then rebill the fee code.

QUESTIONS?

Don't hesitate to contact us at help@oscarprodesk.ca today!

