Government is investing $39.6 million to improve access to primary care

Fee Increase – $11.3 million (fee for service doctors)

Support ongoing efforts to retain current family doctors and recruit new ones
- Government is investing $11.3 million to raise the basic office visit rates
  - Basic office visit rate for patients under 65 will move from $31.72 to $36.00
  - Basic office visit rate for patients 65 and over will move from $40.26 to $44.54
- The rate increase is available to family doctors with an established family practice, or who are establishing a family practice

Alternative Payment Plan (APP) Increase – $2.6 million (contract doctors)

Help retain family doctors on APPs
- Government is investing $2.6 million to increase compensation for family doctors under APP contracts
- Compensation will increase corresponding to the overall increase to the fee for service expenditures family doctors are receiving
- This applies to family doctors under APP contracts regardless of whether they are full or part-time, providing they meet a billing threshold

Enrolment Incentive Trust – $6.6 million

Encourage doctors to develop an up-to-date patient list, on a voluntary basis
- A one-time enrolment incentive of $7.50 per current patient
- Money will be placed in trust and managed by an independent trustee

Patient Attachment Incentive Trust – $6.4 million

Better connect Nova Scotians with a family practice
- Offer a one-time incentive of $150 per patient to doctors for accepting a patient from the 811 Need a Family Practice registry
- Also available to family doctors who take on new patients referred from an emergency department, or from a practice where a doctor is retiring or relocating
- Money will be placed in trust and managed by an independent trustee

Technology Incentive – $4.2 million

A pilot project to deliver telephone and e-health services that will improve access to primary health care, convenience for patients and efficiency for doctors
- Participating family doctors can receive up to $12,000 a year for using technology to communicate with their patients
- Simplify the billing code requirement for the current non-face-to-face fees (ie: prescription renewal by phone)
- Doctors agree to take part in the pilot evaluation process
- Compensation will be pro-rated for doctors working part-time

Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Incentive Trust and EMR Support – $8.5 million

Financially support family doctors using electronic medical records, improving overall quality of care in a practice
- One-time payment for those family doctors changing electronic medical record providers
- One-time incentive to expedite the EMR transition from Nightingale on Demand (software being phased out)
- $5.2 million, for the one time payments, will be placed in trust and managed by an independent trustee
- Financial support for EMR users