

Questions and Answers about MCHP Fees

Fee changes 2026

Q. Why did the fees change in 2026?

A. The revised fees are intended to:

- Support the long-term sustainability of the Repository and analytic services.
- Improve fairness and transparency in how costs are applied across projects.
- Align MCHP's practices with those of comparable Canadian data centres.
- Maintain high standards of data security, quality, and service.

The revised fee structure aligns with the level of access and services requested by each project, with adjustments made periodically to reflect changing requirements and operating costs. This approach responds to feedback received through stakeholder consultations for MCHP's 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, and guidance from MCHP Advisory Board, and Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. MCHP remains committed to working collaboratively with researchers and partners to support a smooth implementation of these changes, while continuing to deliver high-quality services.

Q. Why has the researcher contribution to the Repository maintenance increased?

A. The Manitoba Population Research Data Repository is a critical public research asset that requires ongoing investment to maintain its security, integrity, and usability. This includes activities such as data acquisition and updates, record linkage, documentation, privacy protection, system upgrades, and secure computing infrastructure.

Provincial funding has not kept up with inflation, or the rising costs of infrastructure which means that the proportion of support from researchers has increased from **30%** to **70%** since 2007.

While core public funding has remained unchanged over time, the resources required to operate and maintain the Repository have continued to evolve. As a result, the existing model no longer fully reflects the current scope of activity or the costs associated with sustaining a modern, secure, and widely used research platform. The updated fee structure is intended to better align costs with today's operational requirements and help maintain the Repository as a reliable and sustainable public resource for researchers now and into the future.

Q. How has Repository use changed?

A. The research environment has also evolved over time:

- Use of remote access has increased substantially.
- Repository access now supports research beyond Manitoba.
- Many projects access Repository infrastructure without requiring direct analytic support from MCHP staff.

Under the previous fee structure, some of the costs of maintaining the Repository were embedded within data analyst fees. This meant that projects receiving analytic support contributed more toward infrastructure costs, while other users accessed the Repository without contributing in the same way.

Q. How are costs for Repository access recovered?

A. Under the revised model, costs associated with maintaining and operating the Repository are recovered through fees that more directly reflect Repository access and use, rather than being embedded within data analytic service rates. This means that researchers using remote access pay an infrastructure fee, and researchers using data analytic services pay an infrastructure contribution through the hourly data analyst rate.

This approach supports contributions from all users who benefit from the Repository toward its upkeep and continued development, regardless of whether they require analytic support from MCHP staff.

Data analyst Fees Fee increase

Q. When will the new data analyst fees apply?

A. The new data analyst fees will be implemented from April 1, 2026.

Q. Why have the data analyst fees increased?

A. The Data analyst fees reflect the full cost of providing professional analytic services, including analyst expertise, quality assurance activities, and the secure computing infrastructure needed to support research.

A quality assurance review (10%) is applied to analytic work conducted by MCHP analysts. Quality assurance and methodological oversight support accuracy, reproducibility, and privacy in analytic work. The scope and intensity of review are tailored based on project requirements and analyst experience. Activities may include guidance

on study design, review of analytic approaches and outputs, development of shared standards, documentation, and reusable code. These activities promote consistency, improve efficiency, and staff development through shared resources and guidance.

Q. Why are industry projects charged at a higher rate?

A. Industry-sponsored project rates are higher than researcher rates, consistent with practices at other Canadian data centres.

Q. What work is covered by data analyst fees?

A. The Data analyst fee applies to projects where MCHP data analysts prepare data to be linked with Repository datasets as well as those projects where MCHP data analysts conduct analyses on behalf of researchers.

Q. What is the data transfer fee applied to?

A. The data transfer fee applies when researchers bring in clinical, project-specific, or third-party data to be linked with Repository datasets. The fee supports secure intake of external data, acquisition of primary data from data providers, data validation and preparation, linkage with Repository datasets, and the operational and managerial oversight required to coordinate these processes.

Timing of new fee implementation

Q. When will the new data analyst fees apply?

A. The new data analyst fees apply to all existing and new projects from April 1, 2026. They will be updated annually to reflect unionized salary agreements. This reflects the practice of data centres across Canada. We are estimating costs based on 2026 rates for projects under feasibility review for grant applications currently, and our feasibility estimates refer to potential salary changes resulting from updated collective agreements.

Impact of fee increases on data analyses

Q. What happens if there are insufficient funds to complete the proposed work, because of the increases to data analyst rates during a project?

A. MCHP will provide regular updates on the funds remaining, so that researchers can make decisions about priorities for data analyses in consultation with their assigned data analyst.

Students

Q. How are students classified?

A. Students are those completing thesis projects, residency projects, and UGME projects using the Repository data. Post-docs and Faculty are not classified as students.

Q. What are the fees for students?

A. Student thesis projects led by an undergraduate or graduate student as PI on ethics and privacy approvals are charged a reduced Data Analyst rate of \$50 per hour; no other fees apply to students. Annual cost-of-living adjustments apply.

Pan-Canadian projects

Q. What fees apply to Pan-Canadian projects e.g., HDRN and CNODES

A. Pan-Canadian projects may provide specific work-related supports to MCHP which cover parts of salaries. Data analyst fees are charged at the Public Funded Rate.

Government projects

Q. What fees apply to government commissioned work?

A. Government-commissioned projects will be charged a reduced Data Analyst rate of \$125 per hour, reflecting the provincial government's contribution toward the maintenance of the Repository infrastructure.

Infrastructure and Repository Fees

Timing of new fee implementation

Q. When will the new Repository Fees apply?

A. We are implementing the new Repository fee structure as follows:

- Infrastructure and Repository access fees – to **all** projects from September 1, 2026.
- Administrative fees - to **all** projects from April 1, 2026.

Infrastructure fees

Q. What does the infrastructure fee support?

A. The Infrastructure Fee (which replaces the former “project fee”) supports cost recovery for the core systems and operational processes required to maintain the Manitoba

Population Research Data Repository and make linked administrative data available for research. This includes data ingestion and integration from multiple data providers, data preparation and linkage, maintenance of repository databases and data pipelines, and management of dataset documentation, metadata, and data dictionaries. The fee also supports governance, operational, and oversight activities required to comply with privacy legislation and data sharing agreements and to sustain Repository operations.

Q. How does the infrastructure fee apply?

A. The infrastructure fee is billed per project on a yearly basis, starting from the time data is first accessed and continuing until the project is officially closed at the researcher's request.

Remote access fees

Q. What does the Remote Access Service (RAS) support?

A. The RAS Fee supports the secure computing environment required for researchers to access and analyze data within the MCHP Repository. This includes secure remote research environments and virtual workspaces, system maintenance, network access controls, user account management, system monitoring and auditing, and user-level technical support. The fee is applied per user, as each researcher requires a separate secure account and ongoing system management. One RAS account may be used to access multiple approved projects.

Q. How does the RAS fee apply?

A. The remote access fee is applied per user where the researcher or their staff access the secure research environment to complete analyses. This fee was previously subsidized for a time-limited period by the University of Manitoba this subsidy has ceased. The fee is charged monthly from the date the Remote Access account is created.

Administrative fees

Contract review fee

Q. What is the contract review fee for?

A. The contract review fee is a one-time fee applied to industry-sponsored projects to support feasibility assessment and review for compliance with privacy and ethics requirements.

Reopening fee

Q. What is the reopening fee for?

A. The reopening fee applies when a closed project is reactivated. The fee covers the work required to re-establish access and restore the project environment.

Amendments

Q. What kind of change will initiate a project amendment and incur a fee?

A. Amendments can be significant work for MCHP staff to process and track, and Manitoba Government is no longer willing to cover the costs.

Q. What is a simple amendment?

A. Simple amendments refer to minor or administrative changes to an approved project that require limited review and minimal modifications to the project's data

environment, such as updates to project personnel, extensions to the study timeline, or adding a small number of additional data years to datasets already approved for the project.

Q. What is a complex amendment?

A. Complex amendments involve substantive changes to the scope or design of an approved project, such as adding new datasets not included in the original project approval, requesting data from additional data providers, introducing new or significant changes to research objectives or protocol, or submitting multiple amendment requests together.

Q. Who decides whether an amendment is simple or complex?

A. MCHP will determine whether an amendment request is classified as simple or complex based on the scope of the requested changes and the level of review, coordination, and technical work required to implement the amendment.

Late fee

Q. What is the late fee for?

A. A late fee may be applied at 15% of the outstanding invoice after 60 days when payments are significantly delayed, to support timely administration and consistent service delivery across projects.

General questions

Data analyses

Q. Can a project plan change from MCHP data analysts completing the analyses to alternative non-MCHP data analysts?

A. Yes, MCHP can accommodate changes in data analyses personnel. A revised cost estimate should be requested, which will include infrastructure and RAS fees. The infrastructure and RAS fees will apply from the date the new data analyst accesses the project files, and billed annually.