

ASSESSMENT TEAM REVIEW

The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) recognizes that some injured workers require additional, individualized services to maximize their recovery. When a care provider thinks a worker is at risk of delayed recovery, and would benefit from referral to a rehabilitation centre, a request should be made to the WCB for an assessment team review.

Workers will only be admitted to rehabilitation centres through the assessment or triage process.

Either the primary practitioner or the WCB may request an assessment when there is:

- No return-to-work date and the disability duration guidelines have been exceeded.
- No return-to-work date, and no definitive diagnosis.
- No return-to-work date, and no active treatment plan.
- No return-to-work date, and warning signs of chronic disability.
- If the injured worker remains at work but has not fully recovered.

Assessment teams consist of any combination of:

- Physicians (or specialist, if required).
- Chiropractors.
- Physical therapists.
- Occupational therapists.
- Psychologist, if the duration of the disability is greater than 12 weeks.

The assessment team will examine the worker and provide an independent, objective review and recommend the appropriate treatment level. Information provided by the assessment team includes:

- Diagnosis.
- Results of physical, medical, and psychosocial assessment.
- Functional testing to determine if the worker has recovered from the work injury.
- Recommendations for further medical management at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
- Recommendations for return-to-work planning.

Implementation is always at the discretion of the primary practitioner.

The primary practitioner will receive a report outlining recommended treatment, and instructions on how to refer the worker to the recommended levels of treatment at a number of rehabilitation centres in various locations throughout the province:

Rehabilitation Centres

- Secondary rehabilitation centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment on a daily basis providing regional, global and functional conditioning, work simulation and monitored return-to-work programs.
- Tertiary rehabilitation centres may add a pain management and psychosocial focus available through in-house psychologists. The centres have staff experienced in the delivery of care to workers with more complex physical injuries.

To request an assessment team review, practitioners can contact the injured worker's Case Manager directly, or by fax to (306) 787-7582 or 1-888-844-7773. Information for the assessment team's consideration can be forwarded at the same time.

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