

Information for Physicians and Chiropractors: Completing an Enabling Certificate For a Medical Review Panel

An injured worker applying for a Medical Review Panel (MRP) examination may ask for your help.

The MRP is the final step in our appeal process. The panel is made up of a chairperson selected by us in consultation with the Saskatchewan Medical Association, and two specialists, or a specialist and a chiropractor, chosen by your patient and who practice in the field related to the injury. The panel may be established in either Regina or Saskatoon. Once a panel is convened, the panel may ask you to make any representation to the panel they consider advisable.

Questions about an adjudicative issue, whether an injury claim is accepted or the level of wage replacement, are not bona fide medical questions.

Your patient's application can be for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Your patient suffered a greater functional impairment than decided by us.
2. Your patient suffered a greater limitation in working capacity than decided by us.
3. Your patient should have been granted compensation for a longer period than allowed by us.
4. Our decision was based on a physician's report that was wrong or incomplete.

Your responsibilities are to:

- Complete an enabling Certificate for Medical Review Panel Examination to support your patient's application. The Certificate states your opinion that there is a bona fide medical question to be decided. The medical question must disagree with the board's decision concerning a medical issue. We use the Certificate to determine if an MRP examination should take place. Only a physician or chiropractor can complete the Certificate. You or your patient can contact us to have a Certificate sent to you or you can access one on our website.
- Describe on the Certificate the bona fide medical question to be reviewed; that is, where you disagree with our medical decision.
- Secondly, describe the aspects of the Board's decision you disagree with and the medical reasoning to support the application for the MRP. Your patient can provide you with a copy of the Board's decision so that you may reference the statements in the Board's decision.
- Provide on the Certificate research or another medical opinion that supports your position. You may reference established research from medical journals, as an example or, you may reference another physician's comments that support your position on the medical question.



Once we receive your patient's application and your Certificate, we determine whether the application qualifies for a Medical Review Panel. If your patient's application and your Certificate qualify, we notify your patient with a copy to you. We then send your patient a list of appropriate physicians who may sit on the Panel. Please note that if you complete the Certificate, you may not sit as a member of your patient's Medical Review Panel.

Once your patient gives us their choice of physicians to sit on the Panel, those physicians are contacted and if they agree to sit, the chairperson sets a date to meet. We then provide the members of the MRP with all relevant documents from your patient's file.

The MRP can order any tests they feel necessary to reach a decision.

The MRP, after the examination, will provide a decision to the board stating:

- a) The condition of the worker;
- b) The fitness of the worker for employment;
- c) If the worker is found unfit to work, the cause of that inability to work;
- d) The nature and degree of any limitation in the worker's capacity to work caused by the injury for which he claims compensation;
- e) The extent of any permanent functional impairment caused by the injury; and
- f) Any further medical matters that any member of the MRP considers to be pertinent to the claim.

When they provide us with their decision, we inform your patient within 10 days of receiving the decision. The MRP's decision is binding on your patient, and on us.

If the application and the Certificate do not qualify, you may submit another Certificate on behalf of your patient. You can ask our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to review your Certificate and explain how our decision was reached and what information would be helpful to your patient's application. You can reach our Chief Medical Officer at 306.787.4370.