

## Medical Review Panel

A Medical Review Panel (MRP) is a panel of health care practitioners. The MRP is used when a medical decision about an injured worker is questioned. The MRP is the final step in the appeal process. The MRP's decision is binding on the worker and on us.

Our legislation, [The Worker's Compensation Act, 2013](#) (the Act) defines:

- How an MRP is requested.
- Who sits on an MRP, and
- How an MRP operates.

Only an injured worker can ask for an MRP and only after their appeal has been heard by the Appeals Department and the Board Appeal Tribunal (the Tribunal). *Note: An MRP is not used to appeal decisions about claim adjudication.*

### Members of an MRP

There are three health care practitioners on an MRP:

- We select the Chairperson in consultation with the Saskatchewan Medical Association. The Chairperson is a doctor who practices general medicine,
- We give you a list of specialists or chiropractors who work in the field related to the injury. You select the remaining two members of the panel from the list.

### Reasons for Requesting an MRP

Our legislation has reasons for requesting an MRP. Your written request must tell us which of the four reasons you believe apply to your request.

1. You have a greater functional impairment than was decided by us.
2. You have a greater limitation in working capacity than was decided by us.
3. You should receive compensation for a longer period than the period allowed by us.
4. Our decision was based on a physician's report that was wrong or incomplete.
5. Any combination of the reasons listed above.

### Your Request Must be in Writing

Contact our Board Services Department at the phone number above to get a copy of the form used to request an MRP.

Your request must include an enabling certificate completed by your doctor or chiropractor. You can get a copy of an enabling certificate from our Board Services Department or from our website. In the certificate, your doctor or chiropractor will:

- Identify the medical decision taken by us that they do not agree with.
- Provide specifics about the portion of the Tribunal decision they disagree with.
- List in detail the medical grounds that support your doctor's or chiropractor's position.

Your doctor or chiropractor can talk with our Medical Consultant if they have questions about filling in the certificate. They can reach our consultant by calling the numbers listed at the top of this fact sheet.



Your written request should also:

- Tell us if you want your MRP held in Regina or in Saskatoon. MRPs don't have to be held in the city where you live. We pay your travel expenses to go to the MRP.
- Tell us if you want to be seen by two specialists, or a specialist and a chiropractor.
- Confirm that you understand the MRP ruling is binding on you and on us.

The Office of the Workers' Advocate may help you to complete your written request:

### **Office of the Workers' Advocate**

400 – 1870 Albert Street

Regina SK S4P 4W1

**Phone:** 306.787.2456 or **toll free** 1.877.787.2456 **Fax:** 306.787.0249

**Website:** <http://www.saskatchewan.ca>

Please mail your request and enabling certificate to the Board Services Department at the address found at the top of the first page.

### **MRP Process**

#### **Step 1**

- We review your written request and the enabling certificate from your doctor or chiropractor.
- We check if your request is based on one or more of the four reasons for an MRP in our Act.
- We let you know in writing whether the MRP will be held.
- We will let other interested parties know in writing whether or not the MRP will be held.
- If the certificate does not qualify, your doctor can resubmit.

#### **Step 2**

- If the certificate qualifies, we give you a list of specialists, or specialists and chiropractors, who practice in the field related to the injury you are questioning. You will choose either:
  - One chiropractor and one specialist, or
  - Two specialists.
- The physician who fills out the certificate cannot sit on your Panel.
- We exclude from the list any physician who has provided an adverse opinion.
- You mail to us the names of the two practitioners you have chosen to sit on the MRP.
- We select a Chairperson, in consultation with the Saskatchewan Medical Association.
- We contact the two doctors to see if they agree to sit on the MRP.
- If they do not, you choose other doctors.
- If they agree, arrangements are made for your Panel.

#### **Step 3**

- The Chairperson contacts the other two panel members to set a date to meet.
- Once a date is set, we provide the MRP with all relevant documents from your file.
- The MRP usually examines you. Your travel expenses are reimbursed if you have to go to Regina or Saskatoon for the examination.
- The MRP may arrange tests they need to reach a decision.

**Note:** *The MRP sets its own procedure once all three panelists are in place.*

#### **Step 4**

- The MRP panel sends us a Certificate of Decision. The certificate must tell us:
  - Your condition and your fitness for employment.
  - Why you can't work, if you are found unfit to work.
  - The nature and degree of any limitation to your capacity to work caused by the injury the MRP reviewed.
  - The extent of any permanent functional impairment caused by the injury the MRP reviewed.
  - Any other medical matters that any member of the MRP considers are associated with the claim.

We will return the certificate to the MRP for clarification if it does not address all of the above items. **A complete Certificate of Decision is binding on you and on us.**

#### **Step 5**

- We send you a written notice of the MRP's decision.
- The Chairperson and members of the MRP either destroy the documents they used in the MRP or return the documents to us to be destroyed.