

POLICY NUMBER: POL-64

**Chapter:
CLAIMS**

**Subject:
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

**Effective Date:
July 19, 2001**

**Last Updated:
December 20, 2016**

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this policy is to explain who the Workers Compensation Board considers to be health care providers and how those providers can bill for services.

REFERENCE:

Workers Compensation Act R.S.P.E.I.1988, Cap. W-7.1, Sections 1(1)(r), 18, 59(2).

DEFINITION:

In this policy:

“Health Care Provider” means both medical practitioners and other practitioners.

“Medical Practitioner” means a person duly registered under the laws of the Province as authorized to practice medicine in the Province.

“Practitioner” means a person who has met the professional and legal requirements necessary to provide health care and related services.

POLICY:

1. The role of the health care provider is to provide advice, assessment, investigation, and treatment to a worker for a work related injury and, through this treatment, assist the worker to recover from workplace injury.
 2. Health care providers are recognized by the Workers Compensation Board to provide health care services to workers if they are:
 - governed by legislation and a self-regulating body responsible to ensure patient safety and standards of practice in Prince Edward Island; and
 - licensed by, and in good standing with, a recognized licensing body to practice in Prince Edward Island; or
 - certified by a recognized national body that has standards that meet the minimum requirements acceptable to the Workers Compensation Board
 3. The exceptions to #2 are the following health care providers, who will be considered as being authorized to provide services to workers if they hold the appropriate certification or registration:
 - Orthotists certified with the Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists;
 - Prosthetists certified with the Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists;
 - Audiologists registered with the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists;
 - Hearing Instrument Specialists with National Board Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences and member in good standing with the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Atlantic Canada.

Health Care Providers listed above are required to provide evidence of licensure or certification to the Workers Compensation Board periodically upon request.
 4. Other health care services may be recognized if provided by a licensed, certified, or registered health care provider who applies for and is granted service provider status by the Workers Compensation Board, meets the requirements set out in #2 or #3, and where the service is within his or her scope of practice. Applicants must provide information to confirm their certification, registration or licensing at the time of application.
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5. The Workers Compensation Board will determine whether the applicant is recognized as a health care provider by the Workers Compensation Board.

Fees for Health Care Services

6. Fees for health care services will be paid to health care providers who are registered service providers with the Workers Compensation Board.
7. Health care providers may either directly deliver health care to a worker or supervise the delivery of that care by other health care providers or their assistants. Payment will be made to the recognized health care provider.
8. The Workers Compensation Board may procure services and establish agreements with health care providers or organizations representing the health care providers which include a schedule of fees to be paid for health care services.
9. Health care providers are not permitted to charge a worker extra fees above those paid by the Workers Compensation Board or charge workers directly for services provided when the service provider has not met agreed reporting timeframes.
10. Requests for payment must be received by the Workers Compensation Board within six months of the date of service or within the agreed reporting timeframes as outlined in service provider agreements.

HISTORY:

December 20, 2016 - Non-substantive changes to clarify the criteria and reporting requirements for health care providers.

June 23, 2011 - Amended to incorporate the content from POL-75, "Fees For Health Care Services", which will be rescinded. In addition, moved the section on out-of-province treatment to POL-92, "Medical Aid".

September 25, 2008 - Amended to update the requirements of health care providers and to clarify information on out-of-province treatment.

March 31, 2005 - Amended to ensure the policy was clear about which health care providers

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are accepted by the WCB to provide medical aid to workers. Most of the types of health care providers listed in #4 were updated and/or additional information was added. Also added a section to clarify out-of-province treatment.

Board of Directors Approval Date: July 19, 2001