

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

Effecting positive change in Workers' Compensation through the views of Alberta employers

Automatic Review for Cost Relief Review

In follow-up to discussions by the Policy Consultation subcommittee and the CCT subcommittee, ITF wrote to the WCB on August 12th asking that a task be added to their claims administration system requiring a cost relief review by the claim owner. We expressed the view that cost relief reviews should be automatic and not necessarily triggered by an employer request. We also asked that this requirement be communicated to claim owners and reporting on cost relief be incorporated in the WCB quarterly reports.

WCB is currently reviewing what is occurring now in relation to the cost relief decision making process versus where we want it to be. Prior to the end of September we should receive an overview of their assessment and outline of next steps.

Claim Cost Threshold Subcommittee

The subcommittee has recommended three changes to the current CCT formula; increasing the number of physio services to 18 from 11, adding a \$100 Sundry Item fee, and replacing Specialist Consultation & Report with OIS Clinic Initial Visit. These changes would increase the CCT to \$2,068 (rounded to \$2,100). The current CCT is \$1,500. The discussion document and recommendations are included with the September 8th agenda package and members will be asked to vote on this recommendation.

Industry Custom Pricing Subcommittee

The subcommittee has recommended a review of the ICP policy be included in the 2021-2023 plan. Specific policy issues include specifying an interval for a mandatory review and repolling of participants, requirements for administering the periodic re-polling, and clarification of process and procedure for termination of participation in the program or changing terms of participation by individual employers. The potential unintended consequence of the ICP no cost relief option on employer interest in the TOJ program was also identified.

There were also several other topics proposed for further discussion with the WCB including transparency in marketing and promotion of the program, transparency regarding impact on rates when considering or changing the cost relief option and the need for ongoing communication to employers regarding their participation

in ICP. The discussion document and recommendations are included with the September 8th agenda package.

Policy Consultation Update

The Housekeeping Allowance and Third Party Recovery policies are now open for comment. WCB is also seeking input on policies stakeholders would like to see reviewed in the 2021-2023 Policy Plan, or emerging issues that may require new policy development. There were no member concerns expressed with respect to the changes proposed by the WCB. The submission recommended by the subcommittee is included in the September 8th agenda package for member approval. Consultation closes October 4th.

Date of Accident on Employer Letters

In follow-up to concerns from a member, ITF contacted the WCB about a proposed change to letter templates that would see Date of Accident removed from all but the initial entitlement letter. WCB confirmed this change had not yet been implemented but they were in the process of revising letter templates to remove reference to the DOA in the letter identifiers, except for the initial entitlement decision (IED) letter where the DOA will continue to be listed. WCB indicated they would continue to provide DOA information in the weekly registration reports that are now available for employers. Case plan updates and other correspondence would maintain all other information that is currently on the templates such as claim number, name, etc. but reference to the DOA would be removed.

WCB advised this decision came about in relation to a review of the EFT sign up process and it was felt that limiting DOA to the initial entitlement letter would be a proactive solution that would limit potential fraudulent activity in accessing worker personal information.

In response to concerns expressed by members of two ITF subcommittees, this item is on the agenda for discussion at the September 8th meeting and WCB was asked to pause implementation until after it is discussed.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next meeting is on **Wednesday September 8th starting at 8:30 am**. Minister Copping will join the meeting at 1:00 pm. The guest presentation webinar will be held the morning of **Thursday September 2nd**.

August 2021