

WCB-Alberta legislative/contract responsibility reminder to service providers

As a contracted member of the WCB-Alberta's provider network, it is important for you to be aware of your responsibilities under your contract and the *Workers' Compensation Act* (the Act) in relation to providing services to a worker who has suffered a work-related accident/injury. Failure to comply with these responsibilities may impact the status of your contract or be an offence under the Act.

WCB-Alberta encourages Alberta employers to utilize sound disability management practices to support injured workers in the return-to-work process. In today's market place, many employers are accessing private disability management companies to assist them in implementing internal modified work practices. Many of these companies seek out health care for injured workers as part of their disability management arrangement. You may be contacted by an employer/disability management company representative to provide direct services to injured workers.

Contracted provider responsibilities

- **WCB-Alberta as referral source**
Under your contract, you have agreed to only accept referrals from a designated WCB-Alberta representative. Employer/disability management companies are not a designated WCB-Alberta representative.
- **Conflict of interest notification**
Under your contract, you have agreed to not enter into any agreement with any employer/employer representative for the provision of services without WCB-Alberta's consent in writing.

Alberta provider responsibilities under the Act

- **Duty to report (Act Sections 32, 33, 34)**
Under the Act, Alberta employers and workers have a responsibility to give notice to WCB-Alberta of workplace accidents including those where the injury to the worker disables or is likely to disable the worker for more than the day of the accident. Health care providers have a responsibility to forward reporting about these accidents to WCB-Alberta.
- **WCB-Alberta as first payer (Act Sections 78, 80, 85, 86)**
Health care providers in Alberta have a responsibility to provide WCB-Alberta with invoices for all medical aid related to a work-related injuries. No part of the cost of any medical aid shall be billed to the worker or employer.
- **WCB-Alberta as decision maker (Act Sections 17, 18, 80)**
WCB-Alberta has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters relating to workers' compensation including the jurisdiction to:
 - Determine a worker's eligibility for compensation benefits.
 - Determine the necessity, character and sufficiency of, and the amount payable in respect of, any medical aid provided to the worker.
 - Investigate any matter concerning due administration of the Act.

If you have any questions about contract/legislative responsibilities, do not hesitate to call your contract manager.

