

THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS****MINUTES**

DATE: June 21, 2022

PLACE: Hybrid Meeting
Participants attend either in person or virtually
12th Floor WCB Board Room, 9925 - 107 Street, Edmonton
Microsoft Teams

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Erna Ference, Chair
Brian Frank, Member
Brian McConkey, Member
Shawna Miller, Member
Mary Phillips-Rickey, Member

Excused: Mike Boyle, Member

EXECUTIVE

Trevor Alexander, President & Chief Executive Officer **
Tarick Ahmad, Chief Technology Officer *
Ron Helmhold, Chief Financial Officer **
Wendy King, Senior Vice President, Operations & Innovation *
Marcela Matthew, Vice President, Millard Health & Special Care Services *
William P. Ostapek, Secretary and General Counsel *
Roxy Shulha-McKay, Vice President, Employee & Corporate Services **

ALSO PRESENT

Leslie Henkel, Board of Directors' Secretariat *
Pieter Lambooy, Director, Operations (item 7.3)

* excused for item 15

** excused for item 15 (part 2)

8. **Policy Committee**

The committee chair provided a report on the committee's recent meeting.

8.1 **Policy 04-06, New Application 6 and Addendum A, Pharmaceutical Cannabinoids and Cannabis Authorized for Medical Use**

Under the *Workers' Compensation Act (WCA)*, WCB has the authority to decide whether medical aid for an injured worker is necessary and appropriate (s.80 of the *WCA*). With that authority there is also a responsibility to ensure the treatment is the most appropriate based on current medical knowledge and will support the worker in a successful return to work.

Medical cannabis treatment in a workers' compensation setting is not new and, in the absence of policy specific to medical cannabis, WCB adjudicates coverage under the policy for experimental, non-standard treatment (Policy 04-06, Part II, Application 1, Question 11). However, the existing policy is not specific to cannabis and does not provide any direction regarding use, dose, etc.

There is now a body of research to provide guidance about possible benefits, cautions, and contraindications. WCB used this information to provide guidance and transparency for workers and doctors contemplating cannabis in the treatment of work-related medical conditions. The proposed policy will help workers and their treatment providers access coverage for pharmaceutical cannabinoids and cannabis for necessary medical treatment when appropriate and ensures transparency regarding coverage and expectations.

Board of Directors

In developing the cannabis policy draft, the goal has been to support access to necessary medical treatment within a framework of medical evidence, legislative obligations, and professional practice guidelines. WCB will periodically review the policy to consider advances in the body of scientific knowledge and will adjust as appropriate.

The policy includes general information and essential clinical requirements. WCB expectations regarding the clinical requirements will be supplemented with a physicians' guide to provide additional detail, making it easier for physicians to understand and manage. The policy includes a requirement for the worker to have a treatment agreement on file with WCB, ensuring clarity about expectations.

MOTION

2022/03/10

It was moved that,

The Board of Directors approve the draft policy application and addendum, effective September 1, 2022. The new provisions will apply to all requests for initial coverage or extensions of coverage of medical cannabis made on or after that date.

CARRIED