

Diagnostic testing for your WCB claim

This fact sheet explains when diagnostic testing may be considered for your WCB claim and who to talk to if you think testing is needed.

Section 80 of the Workers' Compensation Act (WCA) gives WCB the authority to determine what medical aid is necessary and the appropriate payment for that aid. This authority extends to medical aid outside the province as well as within.

Diagnostic testing helps your treating health care provider better understand your injury or condition. Examples include X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) scans, nerve tests and other medical tests.

Why a health care provider referral is needed

Your treating health care provider is best positioned to decide whether diagnostic testing is needed. They consider your symptoms, examination findings, injury history and treatment plan before recommending a test to ensure it supports your recovery.

Diagnostic results also need a clinical context. Your health care provider can explain what the results mean and identify any next steps for care. WCB claim owners cannot interpret test results or arrange medical follow-up for self-referred testing.

Key points about diagnostic testing

- Diagnostic testing for your WCB claim must be ordered by your treating health care provider. This includes physicians and other regulated health care providers who are authorized by their respective professional colleges to refer patients for diagnostic testing.
- Your treating health care provider will ensure the test is medically needed and related to the injury or condition WCB has accepted as part of your claim.

Self-referred diagnostic testing

Self-referred diagnostic testing means arranging a test yourself without a referral from your treating health care provider, including testing through a private clinic or another service provider.

We expedite diagnostic testing, so you don't have to

- Testing arranged on your own, without a treating health care provider referral, will not be authorized, paid for or reviewed for decisions on your claim.
- WCB reviews health care provider-recommended testing to confirm it is supported by medical information and connected to your accepted claim.

If you think testing is needed

1. ***Talk to your treating health care provider about your symptoms, recovery and concerns.***
2. ***If testing is recommended, your health care provider will make the referral or request through the appropriate medical and WCB processes.***
3. ***WCB will review the request to confirm it is related to your accepted claim and supported by medical information.***
4. ***WCB will expedite the requested testing.***

Do not self-refer for diagnostic testing for your WCB claim

Please speak with your health care provider before arranging diagnostic testing for your WCB claim. Your provider and WCB can work with you to determine whether testing supports your recovery, is medically needed and is related to your accepted claim.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Can I book my own MRI, ultrasound, X-ray, CT scan or other diagnostic test?

A. No, WCB does this for you at your treating health care provider's request. Diagnostic testing for a WCB claim must be recommended by a health care provider and connected to your accepted claim.

Q. What if I already sent WCB a self-referred diagnostic report?

A. WCB will not accept unsolicited diagnostic reporting.

Claim owners do not have the expertise to interpret this information. Medical interpretation and information can only be provided by your treating health care provider. If they recommend further review, treatment or testing, they will provide medical information through the appropriate medical and WCB processes.

Q. Will WCB pay for diagnostic testing I arranged myself?

A. **No.** WCB will not pay for diagnostic testing arranged without a referral from your treating health care provider and authorization through the appropriate WCB process.

Q. What if my symptoms change or get worse?

A. Please speak with your treating health care provider. They can reassess your condition and determine whether diagnostic testing or other care is needed.

Q. Who should I contact if I have questions?

A. For medical advice or questions about whether testing is needed, speak with your treating health care provider.

For questions about your claim, contact your WCB claim owner.

