

# policy INSIDER



## Important notice about *The Policy Insider*

The Workers Compensation Board (WCB) would like to advise all Policy Insider subscribers that the **May 2010 issue will be the final edition of the Policy Insider.**

In keeping with our commitment to accountability and continuous service improvement, the WCB has determined that the most effective way to communicate with our stakeholders about policy matters is through our website. At [www.wcb.pe.ca](http://www.wcb.pe.ca), stakeholders can view and print all WCB policies, provide feedback on proposed policy changes and subscribe to receive policy-related updates via email. For more information, visit [www.wcb.pe.ca](http://www.wcb.pe.ca) and click on **Policy**.

## Policy Changes

The Workers Compensation Board has approved the following policy changes:

POL02-03, "Assessable Payroll" - This policy was amended to add information on the general principles on assessments of the Interjurisdictional Agreement on Workers' Compensation. *Effective date: January 26, 2010*

POL02-29, "Interjurisdictional Trucking – Alternative Assessment" - This new policy was developed to provide guidance with respect to the alternative assessment procedure (AAP) which is part of the Interjurisdictional Agreement on Workers' Compensation. *Effective date: January 26, 2010*

POL04-01, "Travel And Related Expenses" – This policy was amended to reflect that transportation costs will be reimbursed at the same rate per kilometer as Workers Compensation Board employees. *Effective date: October 1, 2009*

POL04-05, "Chiropractic Treatment" – This policy was amended to clarify the Workers Compensation Board requires that chiropractic treatment be pre-approved. *Effective date: September 30, 2009*

POL04-07, "Physiotherapy Treatment" – This policy was amended to include sections on "Functional Scan", "Functional Capacity Evaluation", and a "Fitness For Work Assessment". *Effective date: February 25, 2010*

POL04-48, "Return Of Injured Workers To PEI" - The policy was amended to clarify the Workers Compensation Board's responsibility with respect to returning injured workers to PEI following an off-Island accident. *Effective date: January 26, 2010*

POL05-55, "Wage Loss Benefits" - This policy was updated as a result of the 60 month policy review process. *Effective date: September 30, 2009*

POL04-64, "Chronic Pain" - This policy was updated as a result of the 60 month policy review process. *Effective date: January 26, 2010*

POL04-68, "Estimating Earning Capacity" - This policy was updated as a result of the 60 month policy review process. *Effective date: September 30, 2009*

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POL04-73, "Home Modifications" – This policy was amended to clarify what conditions must be met for the Workers Compensation Board to consider home modifications. Also, a section was added to the policy that a project manager will be used when providing major structural home modifications. *Effective date: September 30, 2009*

POL04-75, "Interjurisdictional Claims" - This new policy was developed to provide guidance with respect to the Interjurisdictional Agreement on Workers' Compensation. *Effective date: January 26, 2010*

POL05-13, "Offences And Penalties" - This new policy was developed to provide stakeholders with the information related to penalties payable by a person who violates or contravenes a provision of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the regulations, or an order or requirement of an Occupational Health and Safety Officer. *Effective date: January 26, 2010*

## Information about the WCB Claim Adjudication Process

To adjudicate a claim for workplace injury or illness, the Workers Compensation Board requires information from multiple sources. Prior to assignment to an Entitlement Officer for adjudication, the WCB requires a Worker's Report - Form 6 and an initial medical report from a treating physician. In this pre-adjudication stage, the WCB may also request reports from employers and physicians as required.

Once the claim is assigned to an Entitlement Officer, the adjudication process begins. The process includes:

- a review of claim information
- requests for further information as required, such as follow-up physicians' reports
- communication with worker, employer and/or service provider, as required
- decision making
- calculation of benefits, if the claim is accepted.

Although we strive to make claim decisions as quickly as possible, the timeliness of adjudication is dependent upon the complexity of the claim and the ability to obtain the required information. In 2010 thus far, over 70% of claims where a worker has missed time from work have been adjudicated in less than three weeks. A further 10% have been adjudicated in less than four weeks. On average, 80% of claims have been adjudicated within four weeks of being assigned to an Entitlement Officer.

## Stay Informed ... Stay in Touch

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To receive policy related information and an email notification when policies are posted on the "Policy - Public Consultation" section of our website, sign up for our "Policy Updates Subscription Service." To do so, follow the "Policy" link on our website or email [policyupdates@wcb.pe.ca](mailto:policyupdates@wcb.pe.ca).

If you require general information about Workers Compensation Board policy, contact our Policy and Planning Coordinator, Danny Miller, at 1-800-237-5049 or 902-569-7713, or by email at [jdmiller@wcb.pe.ca](mailto:jdmiller@wcb.pe.ca).