

## **Tele-Rehabilitation – Physiotherapy Treatment During the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) is committed to doing our part to help reduce the spread of COVID 19.

At this time, Manitoba's injured workers may be concerned about obtaining initial treatments or continuing their approved treatments for their workplace injuries.

We are committed to supporting the workers' recovery during these difficult times with your support. While many clinics at this time are not providing in-person treatments, the flexible delivery of service from a distance may enable the assessment and recovery process to continue, even while on site appointments are not possible.

As always, we are committed to the principles of safe and healthy return to work. The WCB will support the provision of Tele-rehabilitation and virtual assessments of initial injuries and treatments if the therapist deems it beneficial to workers' recovery.

Physiotherapists are required to follow all professional guidelines and standards of practice specific to tele-rehabilitation established by their regulatory body.

Effective March 26 until April 26, 2020 the current rates for initial assessments and subsequent treatments will apply to tele-rehabilitation as follows:

**New Claims** – One initial assessment and up to four subsequent treatments at a frequency of not more than once per week.

**Previously approved claims** – A maximum of one subsequent treatment per week for up to four weeks. Please note that the total number of treatments provided (virtual or otherwise) should not exceed the originally authorized number on the specific claim without prior approval.

All reporting and billing to the WCB must indicate the services were provided virtually. Reports should also outline the nature of technology utilized to provide the service.

Please note that funding of tele-rehabilitation is being authorized on a temporary basis only given the challenging environment both workers and treatment providers find themselves in. The WCB will be reassessing its position on the matter over time and will communicate any changes accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding these offerings, please contact Ann Lovell, Director Professional Services via email at [alovell@wcb.mb.ca](mailto:alovell@wcb.mb.ca) or call 204-954-4385, toll free 1-855-954-4321, ext. 4385.

