

WorkSafeBC

Health Care Services

INFORMATION BULLETIN

February 2011

New Massage Therapy Contract

WorkSafeBC is pleased to announce a new Massage Therapy Services Agreement effective January 1, 2011. This bulletin highlights some of the key changes for Registered Massage Therapists.

WorkSafeBC only supports individuals who are members in good standing with the College of Massage Therapists of British Columbia. Registered Massage Therapists are not required to sign this Agreement. All Registered Massage Therapists providing treatment to injured workers are deemed to have accepted the terms of the agreement negotiated by the Massage Therapists Association of BC. RMT's not wishing to accept the terms of the Agreement should not provide treatment to injured workers.

Agreement Highlights

- Rates have increased significantly with the Initial Visit at \$62.00 for the visit and the report and Subsequent Treatment at \$30.
- There are no recommended time intervals for the Initial Visit or Subsequent Treatments. It is at the discretion of the RMT to determine the length of the treatment based on the clinical need and not on the amount paid per session. The treatment is only for the area of the body accepted under the claim.
- Massage Therapists will now send a report following the Initial Visit outlining the treatment plan. The Initial Visit will not be paid unless the report is received. A \$10 deduction will be applied if the report is later than 3 days from the initial assessment and a \$27 deduction if the report is received more than 10 days after the initial assessment.
- All Massage Therapy Report must be submitted on the "Generic Report Medical and Health Care" (83D51) in order for payments to be processed. The report template can be found on the WorkSafeBC website at the following link

<http://www.worksafebc.com/forms/default.asp>

- WorkSafeBC approval is NOT required for treatments performed in the first 8 weeks of injury, as long as the Injured Worker has a physician's referral. Claim Owner approval is required for any treatment beyond the initial first 8 weeks from the date of injury.
- Treatment can be provided up to a maximum of three per week for a maximum of fifteen within five consecutive weeks.
- To extend treatment beyond 5 weeks, the RMT must submit a report with the rationale for ongoing treatment, anticipated duration and the expected outcome. Claim Owner verbal approval must be received before continuing with treatment.
- "Extenuating Circumstances Treatment" is a time based treatment for specific circumstances (e.g. lymphodema) where the severity of the injury requires ongoing massage therapy. Claim

Owner approval is required before providing treatment. A report and Claim Owner approval is required every 6 months in order to continue treatment.

- RMT's can bill for phone calls with the Claim Owner to discuss clinical issues.
- A two tiered fee schedule is anticipated to come in to effect in one year based on the RMT's ability to help injured workers return to work.

Billing WorkSafeBC

Registered Massage Therapist **MUST** bill WorkSafeBC directly for all service provided. The Injured Worker is no longer able to pay for the services and request reimbursement from WorkSafeBC. If the worker does request reimbursement, they will only be reimbursed at the contracted rates. Where the Injured Worker's claim is pending and/or is initially not treated as an Injured Worker and the claim is subsequently accepted by WorkSafeBC, the RMT **MUST** reimburse the Injured Worker for all money received from the Injured Worker. The Registered Massage Therapist must then invoice WorkSafeBC for the services provided under this Agreement.

HST

As of January 1, 2011, HST (where applicable) must be billed separately from the service provided for each date of service or visit. HST should be entered as a separate entry for electronic billing using fee code **19330 WORKSAFEBC SPBN HST**

For providers who are unable to bill electronically, the HST must be entered as a separate line on the "Invoice for Treatment Services" (Form 267) for each date of service using the fee code **19330 WorkSafeBC SPBN HST**.

Treatment for non-compensable areas:

The treatment should be limited to the area of the body accepted under the claim. Workers who attend for work-related injuries may elect to have treatment for areas other than those accepted under the claim. The RMT may charge a fee when treatment is provided to areas not accepted under the claim. The worker must acknowledge their understanding that this fee is their responsibility and will not be reimbursed by WorkSafeBC prior to the treatment being provided.

Massage Therapists can review the information on the WorkSafeBC website at the following link

http://www.worksafebc.com/health_care_providers/health_care_practitioners/massage_therapists/default.asp

Alternately Registered Massage Therapists can contact the Registered Massage Therapists' Association of BC at (604) 873-4467 or Toll Free: 1-888-413-4467 for details of the agreement.