

## WCB Review Panel Questions

The questions outlined below have been developed based on our discussion and on the stakeholder feedback we have received so far. Further to our discussion, please distribute the questions to your members and request their input/feedback:

- What are physicians' perspectives about their interactions with the workers' compensation system? What are the challenges and opportunities?
- What system changes could be made to avoid medical-related conflicts? If they do arise, how could medical-related conflicts be resolved more quickly and easily?
- Do you feel that the WCB provides workers with reasonable options in medical services as part of their treatment plan? What are your views on the WCB's current process for referring injured workers for medical treatment or services?
- People have expressed concern about the independence of WCB's medical consultants and specialists. Workers want a choice of health professionals. How could both of these be achieved?
- To what extent should WCB be challenging physicians' and specialists' opinions? What level of review should be required in order to overturn a decision by a worker's physician (e.g., physical examination)?
- What are some challenges and opportunities with ensuring a successful return to work for an injured worker?
- Medical panels provide the WCB and the Appeals Commission with an impartial, independent decision-making process to resolve medical issues that affect a claimant's right to compensation. Each panel is made up of three physicians with specialized knowledge of the medical area in dispute. The Medical Panel Office, which has the responsibility for the panels, is part of the Ministry of Labour. What other roles, if any, could the Medical Panel Office play in resolving medical conflicts?
- What insights do you have on: expanding the scope of presumptive diseases; claims around psychiatric and psychological injuries; and claims involving pre-existing conditions?
- How could WCB engagement with your organization or your members be enhanced? To what extent does your organization or its members participate in WCB policy consultations?
- Stakeholders have indicated that they feel some physicians could benefit from more education and awareness of the workers' compensation system. What are physicians' perspectives about the adequacy of information or training they receive on the system? If there are some specific areas where more could be done, please provide a couple of examples.
- Are there any concerns about the WCBs ability to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the workers' information?