

Summer 2024

WCB Voice



WCB
Workers Compensation
Board of Manitoba

Policy and regulatory updates

New policy on conflicting health care evidence and opinions

We all know how important medical evidence is for adjudicating claims. It can help the WCB determine the type and duration of benefits injured workers are entitled to. But sometimes health care providers have differing opinions on the same claim, which can be challenging to assess. A new policy, Conflicting Health Care Evidence and Opinions (44.05.20), outlines the steps the WCB will take to fairly evaluate and weigh any conflicting health care evidence and opinions on a claim. The new policy comes into effect July 1, 2024.

New diseases added to the occupational disease regulation

Last year, Manitoba's Occupational Diseases Regulation came into force, providing the WCB with a new tool for adjudicating occupational disease claims. The regulation lists 23 occupational diseases where work is presumed to be the dominant cause (unless proven otherwise). The WCB recently added six more occupational diseases to the list: three poisonings (mercury, ammonia, and chlorine) and three asbestos-associated cancers. The changes to the regulation come into force on September 1, 2024.

To review the new policy, and for more information on regulatory updates, visit the WCB website at wcb.mb.ca/policy-legislation.

SAFE Roads launches spring campaign

The SAFE Roads spring campaign kicked off last month echoing last year's message—They're Not in Your Way, They're at Work. It reminds motorists to slow down and drive with extra caution so road workers can work safely.

"These roads are more than just a means to get from one place to another. These are workplaces for many Manitobans," said Dave Kramer, Vice President of WCB's SAFE Work Manitoba division. "Speeding through a construction zone or ignoring traffic signs will not only cost you a ticket, but it can also cost someone their livelihood, or even their life."

"It only takes one motorist to turn a construction site into a danger zone," said Chris Lorenc, President and CEO of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and Chair of the SAFE Roads Committee. "We ask motorists to be respectful, slow down and drive with caution so our workers can get home safely."

Learn more at safemanitoba.com/campaigns/pages/safe-roads-manitoba.



Worker Care Clinic pilot running smoothly

It has been a year since the WCB launched the Worker Care Clinic. Since then, the clinic has provided service to many workers following their workplace injury.

A Worker Care Clinic provides injured workers with timely access to medical treatment from physicians proficient in handling common workplace injuries, facilitating a safe and suitable return to work.

“This pilot program involves KALO Medical Clinic, located in the northeast quadrant of Winnipeg. Attending a Worker Care Clinic is likely to appeal to those who don’t have a regular family doctor,” says Jonathon Bahrychuk, Director, Compensation Performance, Training and Quality.

There are many advantages to attending a Worker Care Clinic, including:

- minimal wait times
- access to doctors with expertise on common workplace injuries
- clinic focus on new, acute workplace injuries such as sprains, strains and other minor injuries that do not require hospitalization
- onsite x-ray and treatment of fractures which require casting or splinting (wrist and knee braces available as well as walking boots)
- treatment of lacerations and foreign bodies in the eyes
- timely completion of reports to get a WCB claim moving swiftly

Injured workers can call the KALO Medical Clinic, located at 1107 Munroe Avenue, Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 204-560-3585 to request an appointment. You can learn more at wcb.mb.ca/worker-care-clinic.

Staying safe while working in the heat

While many of us revel in the summer sun, if you’re working in heat and humidity, the weather can present several safety risks. Taking steps to manage these risks is essential in order to stay safe and healthy.

To prevent serious illness while working outdoors, or working indoors with no air conditioning, take these precautions:

- drink cool beverages
- take frequent rest breaks
- use fans, if working indoors
- wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing
- when possible, do lighter activities when it’s hot and save physically demanding tasks for cooler days

All workplace members should be prepared to recognize the signs of heat stress, which happens once the body can no longer regulate temperature:

- heat illness - headache, dizziness, upset stomach, vomiting
- heat exhaustion - fatigue, weakness, moist skin, rapid and weak pulse
- heat stroke - hot dry skin, rapid strong pulse, mental confusion, loss of consciousness, seizure

To treat someone suffering from heat stress, move them to a cooler area, provide water, loosen or remove heavy clothing. Heat stroke can be deadly - call 911. All workplaces should have a plan for dealing with hot weather. SAFE Work Manitoba has resources to help at safemanitoba.com.

<p>10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE</p>		 <p>OCTOBER 23 8:30AM-4PM VICTORIA INN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE</p>	 <p>SCAN TO REGISTER</p> 
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