

Summary of Policy and Procedure Revisions – September 2023 Update -- Bulletin-37

This Bulletin provides a summary of recent policy and procedure revisions.

PRIME

Procedure 505.00 PRIME Calculations

Effective August 10, 2023, the following updates were completed:

- Changed the PRIME year from 2022 to 2021 for the Actuarial Claim Factors table and the Prime Assessments Limit table; and
- Changed the sample employer experience charge formula percentage reference from \$1,200 to \$12,000.

Earnings Loss

Policy EL-06 Conversion of Pre-1984 Claims

Effective May 17, 2023, the Board of Directors approved the following revisions:

- Completed clear language edits;
- Removed the requirement to add Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments to the pre-injury or pre-reopening annual earnings, as this practice is no longer followed due to previous legislative changes;
- Updated the exceptional circumstances section to include a reference to Policy EN-22 Merits and Justice; and
- Updated the Reference section to add Policy EN-22 Merits and Justice.

Health Care

Policy HC-01 Physiotherapy Services Private Clinics

Effective May 17, 2023, the Board of Directors approved the following revisions:

- Added definitions for physiotherapy treatment, recurrence and reinstatement;
- Removed the two-week restriction for a self-referral for physiotherapy services, as physicians are no longer required to make physiotherapy referrals;
- Added Nurse Practitioners as a prescriber for physiotherapy services where required;
- Added a reference to Policy EN-22 Merits and Justice;
- Updated policy and department title references;
- Clarified that reporting requirements and fees are set by WorkplaceNL;

- Completed minor grammatical edits; and
- Updated the Reference section to include Policy EN-22 Merits and Justice.

Policy HC-14 Use of Opioid Medication for Compensable Injuries

Effective May 17, 2023, the Board of Directors rescinded the policy due to the controls in place in the province to prescribe and monitor opioids, which replaces the intent of this policy. Coverage for appropriate opioid medication remains available to workers, with prescribing health care providers following restrictions and guidelines established by the Provincial Government and other medical governing bodies, which include the following:

- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association;
- College of Family Physicians of Canada; and
- Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board, Pharmacy Network

Procedure 64.00 Use of Opioid Medication for Compensable Injuries

This procedure was rescinded effective May 17, 2023, to coincide with the rescinding of the policy.