



Policy Amendment Proposal GN-03 Role of the Medical Consultant

This policy amendment proposal relating to the role of the medical consultant will reflect the issues consulted on during the engagement for the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* (the 'Act') and will align the amendments made in the new legislation.

The new Act comes into force July 1, 2022. The intended effective date of the proposed policy amendments will be July 1, 2022.

The proposed amended Role of the Medical Consultant policy will reflect minor changes to ensure consistency with the provisions of the Act.

A five-year policy review plan will be developed later in 2022. After July 1, 2022, all amended policies to align with the new Act will be prioritized for a more detailed review.

The purpose of this policy is to explain the role of the medical consultant.

Relevant sections of the Act

The following sections of the Act are relevant:

- 151 medical consultant

Proposed minor changes to this policy are highlighted in yellow

- changes to section references, language and definitions

Board Orders/Regulations

N/A

Current policy

[GN-03 Role of the Medical Consultant](#)



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The board of directors is providing this policy amendment proposal to stakeholders seeking their input, comments, questions and suggestions.

Some questions for consideration:

1. Are there any general comments about this policy proposal?
2. Are there any gaps in this policy proposal?
3. Additional comments?

The views of our stakeholders are important to us. All feedback will be considered prior to the board of directors approving any amendments.

Engagement on this policy proposal closes on **March 31, 2022**. Please provide your feedback by:

1. Downloading a [fillable form](#) on our website and sending it as an attachment to Policy.Feedback@wcb.yk.ca
2. Emailing comments directly to Policy.Feedback@wcb.yk.ca
3. Receipt in our building by March 31, 2022, by mail or drop off at
*Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
401 Strickland Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5N8*

By the end of April a summary of all feedback on this policy amendment proposal will be published on our website at www.wcb.yk.ca



Policy Amendment Proposal

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Preventing work-related injuries is the most important job in any workplace. The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* establishes the responsibilities of all workplace parties to work together to ensure the physical and psychological health and safety of workers. When injuries do occur, workers and employers must continue to work together to facilitate an injured worker's early and safe return to health and work.

Purpose

This policy explains the role of the medical consultant.

Definitions

Appeal Tribunal means the appeal tribunal continued under Part 5 of the Act

board means the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board

worker means a person who performs work or services for an employer under a contract of service or apprenticeship, written, or oral, express or implied and as further defined in section 77 of the Act

Policy Statement

1. General

The Act provides that the president must appoint one or more medical consultants, who have the following duties:

- a. to provide ongoing educational and advisory assistance to the board on health care matters generally;
- b. to advise the board with respect to health care issues that are involved in claims for compensation; and
- c. to perform any other duties that are related to health care issues as determined by the president.

2. Role

The role of the medical consultant is:

- a. to provide opinion to **board** staff, the Appeal Tribunal and the board of directors on compensation and medical issues;



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- b. to review and interpret medical reports as required;
- c. to participate in the case management process;
- d. to examine injured workers;
- e. to comment on recommended medical treatment options for injured workers;
- f. to assess and provide ratings for workers' work-related permanent impairments;
- g. to provide education and training to **board** staff in the area of medicine;
- h. to provide prevention education to employers and workers in the area of medicine;
- i. to liaise on behalf of the **board** with the medical community both within and outside Yukon;
- j. to serve as a resource in policy development that is medical in nature;
- k. to research medical issues which are of relevance to the board;
- l. to assist in the medical surveillance programs; and
- m. to assist **board staff** in the investigation of workplace accidents.

3. Alternate Medical Consultant

An alternate medical consultant will act on behalf of the **board** when a medical consultant is the injured worker's physician.

4. Hiring of the Medical Consultant

Medical consultants will be hired by the president **of the board**.