



**YUKON WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND
SAFETY BOARD**

SUBJECT: TREATMENT POLICY NO.: CS-01
BOARD APPROVAL: David Hughesman
APPROVAL DATE: Feb. 11, 1997
BOARD ORDER NO.: _____
EFFECTIVE DATE: Feb. 11, 1997

POLICY STATEMENT

SECTION
REFERENCE:

1, 7, 28, 30

1992 WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

**REVOKED
JUL 01 2008**

POLICY:

TREATMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

There may be times when a condition delays or hinders the recovery of a worker who has suffered a work-related disability. The condition may require treatment before the work-related disability can be effectively resolved.

Conditions that may hinder a worker's recovery from a work-related disability include, but are not limited to the following: alcoholism, drug addiction, and chronic pain.

POLICY

A. DEFINITIONS

(a) TREATMENT

Treatment in this policy means special surgery, counselling, or other medical treatment as deemed appropriate by the Medical Consultant.

B. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply to pre-January 1, 1993, accidents and to post-January 1, 1993, disabilities, if the following criteria is met:

- (a) Treatment shall only apply after a compensable work-related disability has occurred.
- (b) The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall determine what the effects of the work disability are, and to what extent any condition hinders the recovery of the disabled worker.

- (c) When a disabled worker suffers from a condition that hinders the recovery of the disabled worker, the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board may authorize and pay for approved treatment of the condition to grant relief from a work-related disability, or to reduce or remove the effect of a handicap where a worker experiences a long term disability or requires assistance in the activities of daily living including, but not limited to, alcoholism, drug addiction or chronic pain. In those cases, the board may pay the cost of rehabilitation assistance if in the opinion of the board, the treatment:
 - (i) expedites, or assists in a worker's recovery from a work-related disability; and
 - (ii) will reduce the degree of a worker's work-related permanent impairment.

C. GUIDELINES

Treatment guidelines are as follows:

- (a) When a Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator believes that a disabled worker may have a condition which is delaying the recovery of a worker, the Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator shall refer the file to the Medical Consultant describing the work-related disability, and the condition that may require treatment.
- (b) The Medical Consultant shall diagnose the condition and recommend treatment within the scope of this policy. The Medical Consultant shall discuss the diagnosis of the condition with the worker's medical practitioner.
- (c) The Medical Consultant shall provide a medical opinion to the Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator on whether the proposed treatment of the condition is likely to lessen the impact of the work-related disability, or reduce the degree of permanent impairment.
- (d) The Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator shall notify the worker in writing of the board's decision to provide treatment or not. If treatment is provided, the Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator shall inform the worker about what is expected of the worker and what the worker can expect from the board.
- (e) The worker shall fully participate and co-operate in any treatment program. Should the worker refuse to participate in suitable treatment, the worker shall be advised by the Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator that the payment of compensation benefits may be suspended or reduced.
- (f) The Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator shall arrange all treatment. Treatment shall not commence without prior authorization from the board.

D. **TREATMENT**

The treatment of a condition that hinders the recovery of a disabled worker, shall be for a period of up to six weeks.

Treatment shall commence within three months of the Benefit Entitlement Adjudicator's decision to provide treatment.

Loss of earnings benefits shall be paid for a period of up to six weeks while a worker is undergoing treatment.

The worker shall not be entitled to benefits with respect to the condition other than as prescribed in this policy.

Upon completion of treatment, the disabled worker shall not be eligible for any additional benefits beyond those the worker may be entitled to receive as a result of the work-related disability.

E. **COSTS**

Treatment in this policy means special surgery, counselling, or other medical treatment as deemed appropriate by the Medical Consultant.

Treatment shall be determined based on a cost/benefit analysis.

Treatment costs may include travel and/or lodging, where appropriate.

REFERENCES

Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board:
Arising Out of and In the Course of Employment Policy Statement
Rehabilitation Policy Statement

HISTORY

1. *Workers' Compensation Act*, Chapter 16, in force January 1, 1993.
2. Policy, Alcohol and Drug Services Policy Statement, effective January 1, 1993; revoked February 11, 1997.
3. Policy, Chronic Pain and Chronic Pain Syndrome Policy Statement, effective June 15, 1994; revoked February 11, 1997.
4. Policy, Treatment Policy Statement, effective February 11, 1997.