

Worker's Compensation Board

Information for the guidance of dentists treating workers for injuries covered by the Worker's Compensation (Accident Fund) of Saskatchewan.

Approved by The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan and The Worker's Compensation Board.

Dental care to workers following injuries covered by the Worker's Compensation (Accident Fund) Act is deemed to be a form of medical aid.

Under The Worker's Compensation (Accident Fund) Act. The Worker's Compensation Board has power to decide all questions regarding the necessity, character and sufficiency of any medical aid to be furnished.

Several general concepts are used in assessing Worker's Compensation Board responsibility.

1. Worker's Compensation Board responsibilities for dental care is limited to restoration of the dental function to the pre-existing state if possible. The addition of refinements to obtain a better cosmetic result has not been considered to be a Worker's Compensation Board responsibility.
2. Except in extreme cases, loss of dental function is not considered to affect the individual's ability to work and hence does not normally warrant a permanent disability award.
3. The investment in extensive and costly dental restorations should not exceed what the average worker would reasonably be expected to provide for himself.
4. In some instances where the teeth are in generally poor condition, the cost of total extraction and replacement with dentures will be authorized where it appears to be a better alternative than only repairing injured teeth. Replacement and repair of dentures provided in this way, will not always be accepted as a Worker's Compensation Board responsibility.
5. The evidence of poor, or conversely of good, oral hygiene may be allowed to have some bearing on the selection of dental procedures to be recommended.
6. The fragility and resistance to future injury of dental restorations is also a factor to be considered.

The official fee guide of fees issued by the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan is accepted by the Worker's Compensation Board as the basis for submission of accounts. All fees for other than emergency procedures should be authorized before the work is commenced.

A reporting fee will be paid automatically upon the receipt of a properly completed report and will be coded 55A.

Authorization is obtained by completing in detail the dentists first report after the first examination and forwarding it to the Worker's Compensation Board, 1840 Lorne Street, Regina, SK S4P 2L8. These forms are obtainable at the same address.