

## Memo #24

Date: January 22, 2018

To: Executive/Members

Re: **WSIB; Provincial Budget; OTIP – Insurance Quotes**

### WSIB

Effective January 1, 2018, WSIB has allowed entitlement to benefits for work-related chronic mental stress. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- chronic mental stress must be the primary diagnosis
- the predominant cause of the chronic mental stress must be a work-related stressor

As before, mental stress caused by the exercise of management rights – such as discipline or job assignment - is still not covered by the WSIB.

Please note, claims for chronic mental stress conditions diagnosed on or after April 29, 2014 and existing claims that are now before WSIB will be assessed under the new criteria.

WSIB has released a new Form 8 that should be utilized when a medical practitioner documents a claim for mental stress on behalf of an injured worker. Please note that the form can be filled out by a doctor or a nurse practitioner.

As well, a member making a mental stress claim should be advised that the WSIB requires a diagnosis in accordance with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for the purposes of adjudicating the claim. The related WSIB policies Traumatic Mental Stress (15-03-02) and Chronic Mental Stress (15-03-14) contain useful information for members submitting a claim for mental stress

Effective immediately, members who meet this criteria should be filing claims for both LTD and WSIB.

### Provincial Budget

In preparation for the upcoming provincial budget, the Ministry of Finance is once again inviting the public to vote on public policy ideas, which have been gathered as part of its **Budget Talks** initiative.

The government received over 700 ideas and are now offering the public an opportunity to vote on the top 13 entries. Several of the topics under the healthy initiatives category may be of interest, including:

- increased mental health supports for students;
- providing online mental health support for Aboriginal youth; and
- increased access to supports for autism.

Enhancing mental health supports for students and providing additional supports for students with special needs and Indigenous students have been identified as priorities by OECTA.

Members can cast their vote [HERE](#).

Voting closes **January 26**.

## **OTIP – Insurance Quotes**

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**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1-800-558-4815  
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**