

Council of Construction Associations
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New Program to Reduce Your Costs; Improve RTW

A new program endorsed by COCA and offered by CBI Health Group will have a positive impact on return to work (RTW) programs in BC's construction industry.

CBI's Employer Injury Services (EIS) program is now being piloted across BC as part of implementing a successful return to work program in the construction industry.

COCA is a strong supporter of this initiative and began promoting it after Grant McMillan came across the program that was being used in a more basic form in several construction companies. The Construction Safety Association of British Columbia (CSABC) will be working in partnership with CBI and with COCA to distribute information on how to take advantage of this new program.

"When a claim is sent to WorkSafeBC," explained Grant, "the average time before the claim reaches a Case Manager is 20 days. For the construction worker, who receives about \$200 a day on claim, that means that \$4,000 of contractor money has been paid out before the Case Manager even starts to think about a return to work program. We can do much better than this if we work with a safe, prompt return to work program. That's where CBI comes in. They are a recognized WorkSafeBC provider and the CBI systems combine well with existing WorkSafeBC services."

How Does it Work?

EIS provides immediate access to a Doctor specially trained in return to work processes and to a physiotherapy assessment. There is direct, same day, communication with the employer to facilitate a safe return to work.

This service is available to contractors who register in advance with CBI, at the access telephone number shown below.

CBI Health Group has an extensive network of medical care and rehabilitation centres, including 32 clinics and 120 physicians across the Province.

To ensure easy initial contact with a CBI Health Centre, call 1- 877-224-5355 8:00am until 4:00pm Mon –Fri.

If you have any difficulty reaching this number or getting assistance, call Mike Allegretto, EIS Program Coordinator for CBI Health Group directly at: 1-250-818-2990.

“Our physicians are trained in occupational injury and return to work planning,” said Allegretto. “Our mandate is to provide early assessment and injury education to the worker and to coordinate an appropriate care plan which includes safe return to work or safe return to temporary modified work.”

This care plan is discussed with the worker and an employer representative, and passed on to the family physician and WorkSafeBC on the day of assessment, continuing with concurrent or additional treatment intervention programs as required.

The success of the EIS program depends on employers who are committed to offering appropriate and meaningful modified duties, where necessary, to ensure worker safety and facilitate worker recovery while on the job. Employers are better able to make such accommodations when provided with the knowledge of worker abilities and limitations relevant to the job requirements.

No Charge for Service, if Accepted WorkSafeBC Claim

Fees associated with this service will be billed to WorkSafeBC. In most cases there is no direct expenditure from the employer.

As a further benefit, employers that implement proactive return to work systems are eligible to earn a 5% rebate on WorkSafeBC assessment. This

is achieved through CSABC's Certificate of Recognition (COR) program and certain stipulations apply.

For more information on CSABC's programs and services contact Cathy Lange, Executive Director at 604-434-3222 or visit www.csabc.ca.