

# MEDICAL PANEL FACT SHEET

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## WHAT IS A MEDICAL PANEL

A Medical Panel is a panel of physicians struck by the Medical Panels Commissioner (MPC) to address differences in medical opinion or other medical questions related to an injured worker's claim.

A Medical Panel occurs when requested by the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) or the Appeals Commission (AC) when there are areas of medical differences and/or complexity on an injury file that require resolution by an independent body.

### What is the Medical Panel Process?

- The Medical Panels Program will create a list of physicians who are skilled in the medical issue or matter to be dealt with by the Medical Panel. This is called the Case Eligibility List (CEL)
- Prior to the Medical Panel, the worker, the employer, and the WCB will each have the opportunity to choose one physician from the CEL. If one of the parties does not make a choice, the MPC will make the selection; and will then choose a Chair from the three physicians.
- The worker is permitted to bring up to 3 representatives to the Medical Panel, for example: their family physician, another allied health professional, a family member, or an Appeals Advisor.
- If the worker and/or their immediate family member who is travelling with them is required to travel, their travel costs will be paid for by the WCB prior to travel.
- Panel Members are provided with all relevant medical records, and a list of questions to be answered. The injured worker is also provided with this information.
- A Medical Panel usually takes two to three hours.
- Panel Members will interview, and likely examine, the worker during the Medical Panel.
- Following the Medical Panel, the Chair writes a report which seeks to answer the questions that have been provided or to resolve the difference of medical opinion that has arisen.
- The MPC reviews the report to ensure the questions have been answered and then forwards the report to the worker, the employer, and the WCB or the Appeals Commission.

### What may be discussed during the Medical Panel?

- Questions or issues forwarded to the Medical Panel.
- Medical history of the worker.
- Medical test results.
- The accident resulting in injury.
- Fitness to Work or modified work.
- Any new medical information.
- Medical treatments.
- Worker questions.

**The findings of the Medical Panel are final and conclusive, and not open to question or review in any court.**