

28 March 2014

Good afternoon

Thanks to everyone who had an opportunity to provide comment on the final RTW Services fee schedule since it's release early in March. The comments were constructive and helpful and have resulted in some additional changes. These changes are as follows:

1. Consultant qualifications

The qualifications required by Class A consultants has been amended as follows (note there is no requirement for a rehabilitation counsellor to hold a post graduate degree):

WorkCoverSA will only pay for return to work services delivered by

- ✓ Providers who are appointed as a *South Australian Scheme*:
 - *Return to Work Service provider*
- ✓ Consultants engaged by the above providers who meet the following qualification and experience requirements and as specified under the individual service category in this payment policy:

Class A return to work consultants	
Professional recognition / registration / accreditation	Experience
Registered with AHPRA as an Occupational therapist	≥ 2 years full-time clinical / treatment experience
Registered with AHPRA as a Physiotherapist	
Registered with AHPRA as a Psychologist	or
Accredited with ESSA as an Exercise physiologist	1 year full-time class B consultant experience with supervision by a class A consultant
Full membership with ASORC or RCAA as a Rehabilitation counsellor	2 years full-time experience as a rehabilitation counsellor holding full ASORC / RCAA membership

AHPRA: Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

ESSA: Exercise Sports Science Australia

ASORC: Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors

RCAA: Rehabilitation Counsellors Association Australia

2. PIE Level 1 intervention service (RAW, RTW, CRTW)

The consultants who can deliver PIE level 1 services has been amended as follows:

Who can deliver a pre-injury employer RAW, RTW, CRTW Level 1 intervention

WorkCoverSA will pay for pre-injury employer Level 1 intervention services delivered by:

- ✓ Class A RTW Consultants
 - Providers will be responsible for ensuring the most appropriately qualified personnel is appointed to deliver the required components of this service that best meets the circumstances of the referral

What is required within a Level 1 intervention service

The Level 1 intervention service will drive early resumption of workplace activity, by assisting an employer to identify suitable duties, and to facilitate the worker's return to performing suitable employment. This service is to be completed within 10 days from the referral date.

The Level 1 intervention will incorporate, but is not limited to:

- ✓ consulting with the worker, employer and treating doctor
- ✓ assessing the barriers to the worker's return to work, and identifying actions to address these
- ✓ establishing the worker's capacity to undertake the duties and individual tasks giving consideration to the available medical evidence, and the provider's knowledge of the injury, treatment, pathology and prognosis
- ✓ identifying suitable duties and recommending workplace modifications or equipment to accommodate the worker's return to work where appropriate
- ✓ a task analysis and development of a staged return to work plan (by appropriately qualified RTW consultants), where required

- ✓ establishing agreed return to work arrangements with the worker, employer and doctor
- ✓ educating the worker in safe work practices relevant to their return to work duties
- ✓ completing and submitting a Level 1 intervention report, which includes recommended strategies for how the worker's return to work arrangements will be implemented
- ✓ assisting the case manager in establishing a rehabilitation and return to work plan where requested.

3. RTW Assessment services

The consultants who can deliver RTW Assessment services has been amended as follows:

- ✓ RTW Consultants engaged by the providers as specified under the individual service category in this payment policy:

Service	Class A RTW Consultants					Class B RTW Consultants
	OT	PT	EP	Psych	Rehabilitation Counsellor	Other HWCA disciplines
Agent case conference support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Functional capacity evaluation	✓	✓				
RTW goal verification	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Suitable employment assessment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vocational assessment				✓		✓(psychologist only)
Work site assessment	✓	✓		✓		

4. RTW Assessment services – WorkSite assessment

The consultants who can deliver RTW Assessment services – WorkSite assessment has been amended as follows:

Who can provide a Worksite assessment service

WorkCoverSA will pay for worksite assessment services delivered by:

- ✓ Class A RTW Consultants – Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist
- ✓ Class A RTW Consultants – Psychologist (for psychological injuries)

5. Early introduction of pre injury duties transition, and the Agent case conference support service – this is being introduced in the coming weeks. Further information will be communicated shortly.

6. Fees

WorkCoverSA is currently reviewing the potential to index the RTW Services fees. A decision on the indexation of fees will not be finalised until the end of April. Thanks to all those who have submitted comment and feedback in relation to the RTW Services fees. Your feedback has been taken on board.

7. Release of the final fee schedule

The final fee schedule will now be released in mid may. We are currently

1. working on applying the above changes,
2. updating, adding and amending item numbers as required

Thank you all. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Marcia Vernon

Director, Health and Return to Work Services