

January 23, 2007

Bulletin

Early Intervention Program

New program will help injured workers successfully return to work

Starting on February 12, 2007, if you've been off work for five days due to an illness or injury, you should expect to be telephoned at your home by an Early Intervention Program coordinator. (EIP is jointly-administered by your union and employers.)

After contacting you, the EIP coordinator will determine if you are eligible for the program and then describe how it can help facilitate your successful return to work. You'll then be mailed an information package that includes a letter of introduction and an assessment form to be completed by you and your doctor. The assessment will provide information about your illness or injury and an estimate of when you are expected to return to work.

Your EIP case manager, who is an occupational health nurse, will then help you develop a customized early intervention plan, ensure you receive all necessary medical care and work with you and your employer to accommodate your return to work. There is also employer and union reps who will deal with individual issues as they arise.

A joint steering committee comprised of five NBA reps and five HEABC reps helped develop the program, which they co-manage with the Healthcare Benefit Trust. An EIP working group, consisting of employer and union reps will report to the steering committee.

EIP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- ✓ to initiate early contact with the ill/injured employee
- ✓ to identify and provide appropriate case management of the ill/injured employee's health issues
- ✓ to facilitate the rehabilitation of ill/injured employees while expediting a safe and timely return to work through an early return to work plan
- ✓ to convey the message that employees are valued.

WHO IS AFFECTED

The Early Intervention Program is included in the new Nurses' Bargaining Association collective agreement, so it affects the vast majority of BCNU members. (But you're not covered by EIP if you work under the Public Service collective agreement or any of BCNU's independent contracts.) You can find out more information by visiting www.bcnu.org, clicking on Contracts/Services/Provincial Contract/Early Intervention Program.

WHO WILL BE CONTACTED?

Your employer will refer your name to EIP if you are a regular full-time employee who has been ill or injured for five consecutive scheduled working days. Regular part-time employees will also be contacted.

WILL MY PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Yes. The information you provide to the EIP coordinator is covered by the BC Personal Information Protection Act. Additionally, the Medical Case Manager is an Occupational Health Nurse/RN, and is bound by the professional standards expected of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia and the Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics.

See over for information on your local EIP committee members.

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BCNU/NBA EIP Local Implementation Committee

Holly Anderson	VIHA	PR
Carol Malmgren	VIHA	SI
Jacquie Nault	NHA	NE
Leeanne Malthus	NHA	NW
Penny Henderson	NHA	NW
Diane Hystad	PHSA	SH
Suzie Ford	PHSA	SH
Patsy Thorpe	PHSA	OS
Bev Lalonde	IHA	WK
Sue Crawford	IHA	EK
Linda Krall	IHA	TNO
April Ferguson	IHA	SF
Debbie Reynolds	FHA	SFV
Sandra Bourrie-Wilson	FHA	FV
Cheryl Appleton	FHA	SFV
Judy McGrath	VCHA	CV
Marg Dhillon	VCHA	CV
Erika O'Sullivan	VCHA	CM
Eva-Marie Marchioro	Providence	VM
Shannon Chutskoff	Providence	VM

Early Intervention Program Steering Committee

Susan Epp	Staff	
Marg Dhillon	VCHA	CV
Kathy MacLennan	HSA	
Doug McLaren	UPN	
Carol Malmgren	VIHA	SI
Debbie Reynolds	FHA	SF
Terri Wilmer	VIHA	PR
