

ONTARIO NETWORK

OF
INJURED WORKERS GROUPS

February 12, 2020

Policy Review Committee
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street
Toronto, ON,
M5G 2E2

Dear Policy Review Committee:

Re: CPSO Review of Third-Party Reports and Medical Expert:
Reports and Testimony policies - Publication of clinical notes
released to WSIB

The Ontario Network of Injured Workers (ONIWG) has inserted a link to a copy of the report “Bad Medicine: A Report on the WSIB’s Transformation of its Healthcare Spending”. This report, released in 2017, is a real testament to the healthcare that injured workers receive.

[Bad Medicine Report](#)

Injured workers gathered in 2017 and identified the three top issues that most negatively impacted outcomes for injured workers. These issues are:

1. End Deeming – reducing or stopping benefits based on phantom jobs
2. WSIB needs to listen to the treating physicians.
3. Stop the practice of stopping benefits because of possible pre-existing conditions.

We continuously receive calls from injured workers who ask us what are they to do when their treating physicians tell them they are not able to return to work and WSIB Work Transition Staff are calling them and insisting that they return to work or the worker is found non-cooperative and loses their benefits.

Often, doctors do not want to be involved with injured workers because of the WSIB’s callous disregard for the doctor’s prescribing treatments for their patients. An injured worker was told by their claims adjudicator that they didn’t care what restrictions their surgeon gave them following surgery because the WSIB had the final say. These practices are not only contrary to professionals who have spent years studying to be able to provide the best care possible to patients but are a gross negligence to the well-being of workers who were injured at work and only want to regain maximum recovery so they can return to their lives prior to their injury.

This practice leads to great confusion for injured workers. They trust that their treating physician is looking out for their best well-being, as they should be. But the message of the WSIB is that it doesn’t matter. They know what is best. We had an injured worker who reported to us that he

had reports from four different specialists as well as a WSIB-referred specialist, all who agreed with the medical diagnosis but he is still heading for appeals at the WSIB. The injured worker or their family never recovers from the delays that come with appeals.

The WSIB is mandated to help the worker who is injured at work to receive quality medical care that will maximize their road to recovery. We need the WSIB to respect and adhere to the diagnosis as well as the treatment plan of the treating physician. After all, the best interests of their clients are first and foremost.

We hope that you will take this into strong consideration in your review of these policies.