

Medical and health service case conferences

The *WCIMA23* provides for medical practitioners and health practitioners to charge for time spent in case conferences or discussions with scheme participants.

Key Points

Medical case conference

- A medical practitioner or medical specialist may charge for time spent doing activities in addition to usual medical management.
- This includes discussions with the worker and other scheme participants about the treatment of an injured worker, a worker's capacity for work or strategies to overcome barriers to return to work.
- The *Workers Compensation (Medical Services) Fees Order* sets out the relevant service code and fee to apply if participating in these discussions. (e.g. which may be called a medical case conference or discussion).
- There are also specific items in the *AMA Fees List* for case conferences which may be utilised if the type of case conference meets the description in the *AMA Fees List*.

Return to work case conference

- A medical practitioner, medical specialist or approved workplace rehabilitation provider may also charge for time spent preparing for an attending a return to work case conference.
- A return to work case conference is a specific type of conference convened to review a worker's recovery and enhance opportunities for return to work. Importantly, a worker may be required to attend a return to work case conference.
- The regulations set out the matters which may and may not be discussed in a return to work case conference. The focus is on return to work options and barriers - and not medical or health treatment issues.

Key Points

- See Information Sheet 32, on the WorkCover WA website for specific information about return to work case conferences.

Health service case conference

- Allied health practitioners approved to provide compensable health services may only charge for time spent in any requested or required health service case conference with one or more scheme participants.
- A health service case conference is utilised when planning, implementing, managing, or reviewing treatment options for a worker and/or with respect to a rehabilitation plan for the worker.
- The *Workers Compensation (Health Services) Fees Order* sets out the code and fee to apply for each type of health practitioner when participating in a health service case conference.
- Allied health practitioners cannot participate in a return to work case conference.

Questions & Answers

Q. When is a medical or health service case conference required?

A. If a scheme participant wishes to discuss treatment issues alone or in conjunction with return to work issues.

Unlike a return to work case conference, a worker is not required to attend a medical or health service case conference, although the worker's attendance may facilitate better outcomes.