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3 April 2019

**Re: Changes to WorkSafe's Psychiatry Independent Medical Examiner fee schedule**

I am writing to inform you of the changes to WorkSafe's Independent Medical Examination (IME) fee schedule for Psychiatrists.

WorkSafe have recently conducted a broad review of the current IME model to support the health and return to work outcomes for injured workers.

As part of this review, the mechanisms by which independent examiners are recruited and managed by WorkSafe and the way WorkSafe Agents use IME's to inform the management of worker's compensation claims were considered. WorkSafe consulted broadly with industry stakeholders as part of this review to ensure that the key concerns and issues surrounding the IME model were understood.

Feedback was received from IMEs raising concerns around reasonable levels of pre-reading material and the high volume of cancelled appointments. WorkSafe also acknowledge that the current fee for psychiatry independent medical examinations is lower than comparative compensation schemes, leading to a reduction in appointment availability.

As WorkSafe is focused on the delivery of a high quality service, and this includes the timely access to examinations, adequate appointment availability is pivotal in ensuring injured workers are supported with their return to work and health outcomes.

As a result of the review and valuable feedback, we are pleased to advise you that effective 1 April 2019, WorkSafe has implemented the following changes to the current fee schedule (see table 1):

- 25% fee increase (excluding travel) to all currently approved psychiatry IMEs
- Inclusion of an additional cancellation fee if Psychiatry IME appointment is cancelled by the Agent within 48 hours of appointment
- Inclusion of a tiered fee structure for pre-reading materials

**Table 1: Proposed Psychiatry IME fee schedule (excl. GST)**

Item Code	Service Description	Proposed fee	Current fee
PCT100	First Examination and Report	\$1,107.41	\$885.93
PCT150	Subsequent Examination and Report	\$664.44	\$531.55
PCT200	Report Reading 20-100 pages	\$48.68	\$48.68
PCT201	Report Reading 101-200 pages	\$121.70	-
PCT202	Report Reading 201+ pages	\$202.83	-
PCT250	Urgent Examination and Report	\$125.13	\$100.10
PCT300	Worksite Visit	\$1,084.36	\$887.49
PCT350	Travel to and from assessment (at Agent's request) per hour	\$449.87	\$449.87
PCT400	Audio visual viewing	\$281.21	\$224.97
PCT450	Supplementary Report	\$360.00	\$288.00
PCT500	Interim Report	\$75.11	\$60.09
PCT550	Cancellation or non-attendance on day of appointment	\$375.01	\$300.01
PCT551	Cancellation by Agent within 48 hours of appointment	\$187.51	-
PCT600	Examination conducted by video conference	\$276.40	\$221.12
IEO400	Assessment of Impairment as requested by Agent using AMA2 Guide	\$206.13	\$164.90

These fee changes have been implemented for psychiatrist IMEs as of 1 April 2019, with the finalised psychiatry IME fee schedule available on WorkSafe's website as of this date. WorkSafe expects that any current IME bookings and appointments up until 30 March 2019 will remain unchanged and under and the existing fee schedule.

This is the first phase of a broader fee review for all IME disciplines to occur in 2019.

If you have any queries, please email the WorkSafe IME inbox at [independent\\_medical\\_examiner@worksafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:independent_medical_examiner@worksafe.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Kevin McMahon  
Director  
Health Strategy**