



Registered Massage Therapists'
Association of Ontario

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May 22, 2024

The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy,

Re: OCF-18 Treatment and Assessment Plan

I am writing to you as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Registered Massage Therapists Association of Ontario ("RMTAO") to request that the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule ("SABS") be amended to include Registered Massage Therapists (RMTs) as part of the definition of "health practitioner" in Subsection 3(1) of the SABS. This would allow RMTs to sign OCF-18 Treatment and Assessment Plan forms. The OCF-18 form is used to request approval from an insurance company for medical and rehabilitation benefits for an individual who has sustained injuries in a motor vehicle accident. At the present time, subsection 3(1) of the SABS authorizes only those professionals listed in the definition of health care practitioner to sign an OCF-18. Attached is a copy of Section 3(1) of the SABS and the OCF-18 Form.

Allowing RMTs to sign the OCF-18 form will streamline the treatment process for injured Ontarians, reduce red tape and ultimately enhance patient care. In that regard, we would like to emphasize that:

1. RMTs are highly skilled regulated health professionals who are highly trained and experienced in assessing and treating musculoskeletal injuries. Their therapeutic care contributes to patient recovery. Allowing RMTs to sign off on OCF-18 forms would expand the range of treatment options available to patients who have been injured in motor vehicle accidents, giving them timely and comprehensive care that aligns with their specific needs.
2. Under the current system, an RMT must solicit the signature of another regulated health professional listed in the SABS before they can submit the form to an insurer. This involves multiple steps between the two regulated health professionals. RMTs do not need the supervision or permission of other regulated health professionals to treat their patients in any other circumstance, therefore it should not be required in this circumstance. Allowing

RMTs to independently sign the OCF-18 would remove an unnecessary administrative burden which would lead to the quicker and more efficient initiation of treatment for the injured patient.

3. Timely treatment is key to patient recovery from injuries. Delayed treatment negatively impacts recovery from injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents. By enabling RMTs to sign OCF-18 forms, patients can access treatment without unnecessary delays and improve the chances of a faster recovery.

4. Injuries sustained in car accidents can have various physical and psychological implications. RMTs, through their expertise in musculoskeletal health, can contribute to a patient-centered approach to care. Allowing RMTs to independently sign the OCF-18 acknowledges their valuable role in the recovery process and ensures that patients comprehensive care needed for recovery.

We are confident that allowing RMTs to sign the OCF-18 form will reduce red tape in the treatment and assessment process and expedite care to people injured in motor vehicle accidents. We would be pleased to discuss our recommendation with you at any time.

Yours truly,



Michael Feraday
Executive Director & CEO

c.c. Cam Vidler, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance
Taylor Putnam, Special Advisor and Strategic Projects