
To: Members of the Ontario Auto Insurance Coalition
Attention: Vice Presidents Claims

Date: November 7, 2007

Clarification of the Status of Psychologists and Psychological Associates Under the SABS

This Bulletin is intended to clarify which psychology health professionals are to be considered health practitioners, as defined in the SABS, and therefore authorized to complete part 5 of treatment plans and perform other functions assigned to health practitioners by the SABS. The status of psychological associates under the SABS was incorrectly described in an earlier bulletin (October 26, 2007).

Psychological associates and psychologists are health practitioners as defined by the SABS. Although the SABS does not list "psychological associates" as health practitioners, the regulation does specify that persons authorized to practice psychology are considered to be "psychologists", for the purpose for the SABS. The College of Psychologists authorizes psychologists and psychological associates to practice psychology. Consequently, psychological associates do qualify as health practitioners for the purposes of the SABS. Current claims forms also reference only "psychologists" but this should be taken to include "psychological associates" as well.

As previously advised, the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) has recently recommended that both the titles "psychologist" and "psychological associate" should continue in use to distinguish between psychology practitioners with different levels of education. In order to avoid future confusion, IBC will continue to discuss with government ways of ensuring more consistency between the distinction of psychologists and psychological associates and their treatment under the SABS and its applicable forms.

In the interim insurers should make claims personnel aware of the fact that both psychologists and psychological associates are to be treated as health practitioners as defined by the SABS.

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