

Date: [Insert date]

Attn: Kathryn Coll, Chair of Public Sector Group Insurance Plan Trustees
1 Harbourside, Brecken Building
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 8R4

RE: Inclusion of occupational therapy services in extended health benefits plan

Dear Kathryn,

I understand that occupational therapy services are not currently offered as part of the extended health benefits plan. Occupational therapy provides the solution to many health related issues and can stop problems before they start. Occupational therapy services can also assist in developing better practice in occupation that will lead to an improved level of health, wellness, and productivity in the workforce.

Occupational therapy is an essential component to any comprehensive benefits package and is proven to reduce disability claims through the promotion of function and independence in daily activities. Occupational therapists consider the medical, social, psychological and occupational factors that contribute to function and is an integral part of a health management strategy. In the event a claim is made due to illness or injury, occupational therapists have the knowledge and expertise to facilitate return-to-work and can implement cost effective workplace accommodations. A limited patchwork of coverage for occupational therapy in workplace health benefits, alternatively, results in many Canadians being unable to access non-pharmacological health interventions and may rely on pharmaceutical options as a first line of pain management. Involvement of an occupational therapist can decrease lost work days and costs incurred when the individual is on disability leave.

As a policy holder, I would appreciate a response indicating when occupational therapy services will be covered, which I feel is a valuable allied health provider, and whether a flexible plan is being considered as an option for your clients.

Sincerely,