



Social Work Inclusion Public Service Health Care Plan

On March 24, 2020 the Government of Canada announced temporary changes to the [Public Service Health Care Plan](#) (PSHCP) in response to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

These measures were designed to help PSHCP members and eligible dependants access health care benefits while at the same time minimizing social interaction with health care professionals.

This includes temporary changes to the [Medical Practitioners Benefit](#) to include social workers as accepted mental health professionals. This temporary change will be in place until April 24, 2020

CASW has long advocated for inclusion social work within the PSHCP. CASW is committed to strongly advocating that this temporary change be made permanent.

Background:

The Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) is an optional health care plan for federal public service employees and their dependants designed to supplement provincial/territorial health insurance plans.

Under the [Medical Practitioners Benefit](#), the PSHCP covers services rendered by practitioners such as psychologists. These practitioners must be registered, licensed or certified to practice in the province or territory where they work. To be eligible for coverage for some services, members require a prescription from a physician.

What does this mean for Social Workers?

Until April 24, 2020, social workers will be included as mental health professionals along with psychologists for all PSHCP members and eligible dependents, regardless of where they are located. Eligible expenses for the services of a medical practitioner include only those services that are within their area of expertise and require the skills and qualifications of such a medical practitioner. In addition, in accordance with provincial or territorial regulations, the medical practitioner must be registered, licensed, or certified to practise in the jurisdiction where the services are rendered. Please consult your [Provincial Social Work Regulatory Body](#) to ensure you meet these standards.

How do Federal public service employees claim services from Social Worker?

To be covered for services by a social worker all claims must be sent by [mail](#) using a completed [PSHCP Claim Form](#) (PDF, 614 KB) for [Supplementary Coverage](#) or a [PSHCP Claim Form for Out-of-Country Claims](#) for [Comprehensive Coverage](#). Attach supporting documentation (original receipts, bills, invoices, physician or practitioner statements, and/or questionnaires, etc.). Mail the form to the address indicated on the form along with the supporting documentation.