

Health Services News

Welcome to Spring! We have lots to share with you this month.

Changes to Regulated Rates effective May 1

Health care provider rates are outlined in both the *Insurance Vehicle Regulation* and the *Enhanced Accident Benefit Regulation*. Around 2019, the BC government introduced two safeguards to ensure regulated rates continue to reflect the reasonable costs of services:

- Regulated rates are subject to an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment on April
 1; and
- Benefit amounts set by government are subject to a five-year regulatory review cycle.

The five-year regulatory review was recently completed by government and involved consultation with the health care practitioner associations. As a result of this review, there are fee adjustments for <u>some</u> discipline types. These new fee amounts will apply to health care services provided **on or after May 1, 2025**.

Your <u>discipline-specific Program Guide</u> will be updated on May 1st to reflect the adjusted rates, if applicable. ICBC is providing advance notice to allow health care providers time to prepare their billing systems accordingly.

Note:

- Minimum expectations regarding session lengths vary by discipline so rates cannot be compared between discipline types. See your discipline-specific Program Guide for details
- All other rates remain the same unless indicated below.

Type of Practitioner	Assessment Visit	Standard Treatment (treatment date on/after May 1, 2025)
Acupuncturist	\$132	\$113
Chiropractor	\$121	\$75
Counsellor	\$262	\$157
	(with initial report)	
Kinesiologist	No change	No change
Physiotherapist	No change	No change
Psychologist	\$723	\$241
	(with initial report)	
Registered Massage Therapist	No change	\$105
Occupational Therapist		\$145 per hour



Type of Practitioner		Fee (report date on/after
		May 1, 2025)
Family Physician	Standard assessment & report	\$194
	Extended assessment & report	No change
	Assessment & report	No change

Other changes due to the five-year regulatory review:

 For crashes occurring before May 1, 2021, initial visits will no longer include a reporting requirement for Chiropractic, Physiotherapy and Kinesiology. Initial visits for crashes occurring before May 1, 2021 are becoming increasingly less common but may still occur with approval from an ICBC claims representative.

Non-Regulated Rate Adjustments

Effective May 1, 2025, mileage for eligible health care providers will increase to \$0.66/km, and rates for Rehabilitation Assistants will increase to \$66.50/hour.

Health Care Provider Locator now live

ICBC's Health Care Provider Locator went live March 30 and the response from health care providers exceeded all expectations! So many providers applied, we are still working through the applications and will be adding new providers as soon as each application is approved.

If you haven't already, you can sign up here: <u>Apply for or update your ICBC Recovery Network account</u>. This locator will help injured ICBC customers connect with pre-approved early access treatment providers to support them on their recovery journey.

Here are detailed instructions on how to sign up for ICBC's Health Care Provider locator.

Note: if you notice inaccuracies within your locator information, please log into your ICBC Recovery Network account to ensure practitioners for each discipline listed are accurate.

Please continue to review the Locator FAQs and Vendor Accounts FAQs on the Business Partners page for additional information.

Reminder: Registered Massage Therapy and Acupuncture Care Plan Meetings

Effective April 1, registered massage therapy and acupuncture can now invoice for care plan meetings through the HCPIR/Portal. A drop-down line item has been added for this service.



Reminder: Scarring reports and Range of Motion Reports

Effective April 1, ROM and Scarring Reports can now be completed by chiropractors, registered massage therapists and kinesiologists, in addition to physiotherapists and occupational therapists. A drop-down line item has been added to the HCPIR/Portal to invoice for these items. Further details can be found in your discipline-specific program guide.

NEW: Changes to Registered Massage Therapy standard session length

ICBC's expectation for standard registered massage therapy sessions is 45 minutes direct one-to-one care, not including charting, admin or room set-up/take-down. We've heard your feedback that 45 minutes isn't always clinically indicated.

Therefore, effective May 1, registered massage therapists will have the ability to invoice for a prorated session using the HCPIR/HCPP. The invoicing platforms will show both a 45-minute (\$105) and 30-minute (\$70) option in a drop-down menu for you to select the appropriate length of session.

Expectations for the initial visit do not change.