

ATTACHMENT A—CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION WORKSHEET

The reasonableness of each claim for medical treatment should be assessed on its merits, based on the facts of the matter and the clinical evidence on the claim file. Claims managers should consider all of the requirements of section 16 of the SRC Act when determining liability for medical treatment.

Step 1			
Once satisfied the proposed treatment is 'medical treatment' for the compensable injury, consider the employee's individual circumstances and the available clinical evidence to assess the reasonableness of treatment against the guiding principles			
Principles	Key Questions	Action required to get to YES	Addressed?
Principle 1 <i>Demonstrate effectiveness</i>	Measure and demonstrate effectiveness of treatment > Does the treatment focus on relevant aspects of the employee's health status? > Is effectiveness being measured? How?	Measurement of treatment provides the employee, treatment provider and other decision makers with information on the treatment's efficacy (i.e. status improving, worsening, or not changing). Is this treatment working or not? If additional evidence is required, ask the most appropriate treatment provider (preferably a treatment provider who is registered with AHPRA (www.ahpra.gov.au)). If they are not AHPRA registered (e.g. acupuncturist, etc.), ask the GP for clinical justification.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Principle 2 <i>Biopsychosocial approach</i>	Adopt a biopsychosocial approach > Does the treatment provider have strategies to address barriers?	Has the provider identified risk factors and are they being addressed? Is the provider aware of all relevant circumstances that may affect the compensable injury?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Principle 3 <i>Empowerment</i>	Empower the employee to manage their injury > Is there a move to self-management? > Is the employee involved in goal setting?	Empower the employee by educating, setting expectations, developing self-management strategies and promoting independence from treatment. Can you see all of the above within the treatment planning?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Principle 4 <i>Goal focused</i>	Implement goals focused on optimising function, participation and return to work > Are goals functional (measurable improvement in physical and/or mental functioning) and SMART?	Goals should be developed at the beginning of treatment in collaboration with the employee. Progress towards goal achievement should be regularly assessed, with goals reset or modified as necessary. If the above is NOT addressed, talk to the provider.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Principle 5 <i>Evidence based</i>	Base treatment on best available research evidence > Does the treatment offer best chance of success? > What are the risks? Any other suitable treatments? > Is treatment supported by research evidence?	Healthcare professionals should use the best available research evidence to inform their recommendations. The proposed treatment should be supported by Level 1 or 2 evidence. NHMRC (www.nhmrc.gov.au) ranks study designs in order of confidence about the treatment's efficacy.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Step 2			
Gather more information where required—seek assistance with 'NO' answers before you make a determination			