

ICBC offers free access to the ODG web site

ICBC supports the use of evidence-based guidelines for patient treatment and disability duration. To support physicians in caring for ICBC claimants, ICBC is offering BC physicians free access to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) web site.

It's an online resource that provides return-to-work guidelines and treatment data that are updated annually using scientific medical literature reviews, survey data analysis, and expert panel validation.

ICBC believes that the Official Disability Guidelines are a useful resource that may assist physicians in their management of the injured individual's recovery plan. When dealing with patients whose treatment needs and recovery period fall outside the norm, the ODG may assist with re-evaluating the treatment plan and help identify other resources to support the individual's return to work.

Disability duration guidelines, of which the ODG is one, are reference materials that provide an estimate of how long an injured individual can reasonably be expected to be away from work for a given injury or medical condition. Rather than being rigid time frames, they are points in time when a treating practitioner may consider re-evaluating the current treatment plan or identify other resources that may assist the injured individual's recovery or return to work.

As noted in ICBC's June article in the *BCMJ*, online searches can take time and the information may be limited by the scope of available research. But online databases can also be great tools for clinical decision making and for directing the care of complex medical cases typical to some types of personal injury claims.

Benefits of evidence-based disability duration guidelines:

- Improved patient outcomes.
- Reduction in delayed recovery rates.
- Open and informed communication between physician, insurer, and patient.
- Resumption of regular activities in a reasonable time frame.

The ODG provides benchmarks for comparing the patient's progress against evidence-based standards.

Win two nights' stay at a Coast Hotel/Resort in BC

ICBC would like your feedback on this article and others published in the *BCMJ*.

- November 2006—ICBC and the BCMA—Working together
- December 2006—The ICBC medical record
- January–February 2007—ICBC medical claims coverage
- March 2007—ICBC—Auto insurance and more
- May 2007—Managing patient privacy and legal obligations
- June 2007—Clinical decision making—An evidence-based approach to managing ICBC claims
- July–August 2007—To MRI or not to MRI?
- November 2007—ICBC studies risky behaviors

Please complete the following questions by 28 January 2008, and enter your name to win two nights' stay at a Coast Hotel/Resort in BC (valued at \$300). Fax your responses to Anita Gill at 604 660-6148 or send by e-mail to medinquiries@icbc.com or fill out the online questionnaire under the Health Services Partners section of our web site at www.partners.icbc.com/main.asp?navQual=1&qualVal=subHealth. All responses are confidential. The draw is subject to rules as posted on the Health Services Partners section of icbc.com. ICBC welcomes feedback and would like ideas for future topics.

Name for hotel prize draw: _____

Daytime contact phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

1. The information in ICBC's articles has increased my understanding of ICBC's medical policies, services, and programs for people injured in motor vehicle accidents.

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
 Not applicable

2. ICBC's articles have helped me understand ICBC's expectations of physicians in the care and recovery of those injured in motor vehicle accidents.

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
 Not applicable

3. ICBC's articles have helped me in dealing with ICBC adjusters about the care and recovery of people injured in motor vehicle accidents.

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
 Not applicable

4. Other comments

Survey deadline: 28 January 2008

ODG features

- Return-to-work guidelines for every reportable condition—based on severity, treatment, and job type.
- Job/activity modifications.
- Procedure summaries evaluating the efficacy of options, with links to supporting medical evidence in abstract form.
- Up-to-date medical treatment guidelines for conditions commonly associated with the workplace.

On occasion, an ICBC adjuster may contact the attending physician regarding a patient's treatment plan or disability duration. ICBC adjusters welcome calls from physicians to discuss treatment plans and will pay the consult fee in accordance with the BCMA fee code A00098.

More about the ODG

- Developed by the Work Loss Data Institute, an independent US database development company.
- Based on over 3 million cases from the US Center for Disease Control and Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

To use the ODG, you will need ICBC's user ID and password to log onto the web site at www.odgtreatment.com. Please contact Anita Gill at 604 647-6134 or anita.gill@icbc.com for access, or visit the members-only section of the BCMA web site. ICBC would like your feedback on this resource. Your opinion of the usefulness of this resource is of interest to ICBC.

—Anita Gill
**Manager, Injury, Technical,
 and Professional Support,
 ICBC**

Dr A.W. Mooney 1915–2007

Dr A.W. "Al" Mooney died suddenly at his home in Fort St. James in his 92nd year. His wife, Janey, predeceased him but they left a large family of children and grandchildren and a grateful community to mourn their passing.

Al was born in Crawford Bay on Kootenay Lake in 1915. Later his family moved to Vancouver, where he went to UBC to obtain a BA in 1935. After teacher training he taught at both north and south Burnaby high schools and he met Janey Findley. After their marriage they moved to Edmonton and the University of Alberta where he did his medical training. He had an outstanding academic history at all levels of his education. They returned to Vancouver and St. Paul's Hospital for his internship and a year of surgical residency.

He had his eye out for a rural practice and he chose Vanderhoof in 1947. The community was serviced by a 50-bed Catholic hospital, but medical services were patchy for the several thousand people in the area. Construction of a Nechako River Dam was on the horizon, with approximately 2000 people on site. In addition, the First Nations population of the greater area of northeastern BC was in need of medical care, and he obtained a contract for their care.

He wasted no time in entering local politics as a town councilor and he soon became a driving force in the village's development. In a few years, water, sewer, and modern electricity and telephone systems were in place, and fire services, paved streets, municipal offices, a public library, and a district high school (which bears his name) arrived in rapid succession.

When he was able to get medical help in 1952, he groomed them, and then he took two-and-a-half-years to return to the University Hospital in

Edmonton where he got his fellowship in surgery.

Soon after his homecoming he was asked to join the school board and once again he sparked development as high schools were built in Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, and Fraser Lake. He was also involved in the campaign to open a regional college in Prince George, and today the College of New Caledonia has 4000 students and there are several peripheral centres in the greater area, including Vanderhoof. Another area of interest was radio communication, and he contributed to its development as an educational tool, particularly for isolated areas where winter weather made school attendance very difficult.

His hobby was farming, and over the years he put together 2050 acres of land with 1500 acres seeded in grains and a cattle ranch on the side.

He was recognized for his career of service with the Citizen of the Year by the Vanderhoof Rotary Club in 1967. Later he received the Queen's Medal for community service in 1992, and the Governor General's Medal for community service in 2002.

These are just some of the highlights of an energetic pioneer physician, surgeon, and builder who went into the country north of 54 with a vision of the future and the energy to live two lives, one being a good doctor and the other a leading figure in community growth and development.

—C.E. McDonnell, MD
 West Vancouver

Dr Michael Foster Smith 1946–2007

Michael Foster Smith MD, FRCPC, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep in September while at the family cottage on the Sunshine Coast. His adored wife, Connie, was at his side.

Michael was born in Toronto,

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