



# Revised Functional Abilities Form for Planning Early and Safe Return to Work: Information for Health Professionals

An early and safe return to work (RTW) helps reduce the physical, emotional, and financial impacts of a workplace injury/illness on your patient and his or her family. Health professionals can play a role in this process by providing the worker and employer with support in planning a return to work that is within the worker's functional abilities.

The worker or employer may ask you to complete a functional abilities form. The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has redesigned its Functional Abilities Form for Planning Early and Safe Return to Work (FAF) to be used as a tool to facilitate return to work discussions between the worker and employer. The new form comes into effect on **March 1, 2007**.

By completing the form in detail, you provide the worker and employer with a common frame of reference about the worker's physical condition. They can then collaborate on identifying available jobs that match the worker's ability to walk, stand, sit, lift, and perform other work-related tasks. Completion of the form is based on your examination of the worker and does not require a specialized functional abilities evaluation.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Completion of the FAF should be initiated by the employer or worker and not by the health professional.

## Legal Authority

Section 37(3) of the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997* provides the legal authority for health professionals to give the WSIB, the injured worker, and the employer such information as may be prescribed concerning the worker's functional abilities.

## Billing

For billing purposes, please fax or mail pages 2 and 3 of the FAF to the WSIB. The WSIB pays \$40.00 for the completion of this form.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Employers may request functional abilities information on a form of their own design. In this case, the employer must pay you directly for the completion of the form.