

Consent Authority

The *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023 (WCIMA23)* provides for a voluntary consent authority for the collection and disclosure of information related to a worker's injury.

Key Points

Act ref: s. 25

- To make liability decisions and manage claims, insurers and self-insurers require access to a worker's medical and personal information relevant to the injury or claim. Treating medical practitioners may also need to discuss a worker's medical condition with the worker's employer, their insurer or other medical and health providers.
- The *WCIMA23* provides for the approved claim form to include an authority for a worker to give consent to the collection and disclosure of the worker's medical, health and personal information relevant to:
 - the worker's injury
 - the worker's claim for compensation or entitlement to compensation
 - injury management for the worker's injury.
- The approved claim form also includes authority for a worker to consent to the disclosure of information collected to a person specified in the authority.

Questions & Answers

Q. If I make a workers compensation claim, will my entire medical history be disclosed to the insurer?

A. No. The consent authority is only for the disclosure of information relevant to a worker's injury, claim or entitlement to compensation or for injury management purposes. Irrelevant information cannot be disclosed by the person providing the information.

Q. Is the authority voluntary or mandatory?

A. The authority is voluntary. A worker cannot be compelled to give consent. However, refusing to give consent may compromise the ability of an insurer or self-insurer to assess the claim and make a liability decision in a timely manner.