

Family Council

Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to facilitate Members' discussion of the Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work (Pilot Programme) launched by the Labour Department (LD).

BACKGROUND

2. Most injured employees seeking treatment and rehabilitation services in public hospitals face a long waiting time. Not only does this prolong their sick leave, they may also miss the golden period for rehabilitation. This may affect their recovery and compromise their capacity for returning to work early as well as impact on their families emotionally and financially. Employers also suffer from productivity loss, increased employees' compensation and risk of civil claims as a result.
3. The Government committed in the 2019 Policy Address to introduce a three-year Pilot Programme targeting at injured construction employees. The Pilot Programme adopts a case management approach in the provision of speedy private out-patient rehabilitation treatment services to the participating employees, with a view to facilitating their early recovery and return to work.
4. The Pilot Programme targets injured construction employees as they account for the highest percentage of injured employees with prolonged sick leave in recent years. By the nature of their work, construction workers are also more prone to musculoskeletal injuries at work that need timely and coordinated rehabilitation services to prevent the injuries from turning into chronic conditions.
5. LD has engaged Actmax Limited (the Contractor, a subsidiary company of Human Health Holdings Limited) to provide the required rehabilitation treatment, case management and return-to-work facilitation services under the

Pilot Programme. The Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Centre (CUHKMC) is the Contractor's strategic partner.

6. Launched on 23 September 2022, the Pilot Programme engages medical practitioners, physiotherapists and occupational therapists in providing rehabilitation treatment services. Imaging examination and electrodiagnostic testing services are covered. Each case is followed up by a dedicated case manager.

7. LD will closely monitor the operation of the Pilot Programme. Subject to the effectiveness of the Pilot Programme, LD will explore extending it to cover other injured employees and having employers finance the Programme after due consultation with employers and other stakeholders.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to provide views on the Pilot Programme.

Labour Department
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