



Liability

Seeking an alternate solution for your individual professional liability/commercial general liability?

As your professional association, we're here to help support informed decision-making around how best to protect yourself and your professional practice with insurance. Wherever anyone is contemplating moving from one insurer/insurance policy to another, there are a few key items to consider for continuity of coverage and protection.

Please consider seeking the following information prior to making a decision:

- Does the professional liability insurance policy extend to respond to claims that may arise based on services delivered prior (ie: from before the new policy comes into effect)? We are aware of other group insurance programs where the policy wording specifies there is only coverage for acts/omissions that occur during the period of insurance or during the period in which the policyholder was insured under their program.
- Are legal expenses paid by the insurer on behalf of the policyholder, or does the policyholder have to pay their costs and seek reimbursement from the insurer?
- Is there a deductible on the policy?
- Does the policyholder have choice of counsel or is counsel appointed by the insurer?
- Is there a cap on hourly legal costs that will be paid by the policy?
- Will making a claim impact the ability to renew or the insurance cost?
- If the new policy is on a Claims Made basis, what is the Automatic Extended Reporting Period (ERP)? We are aware of policies where this is a short 30 days or less, which will leave policyholders under-protected upon retirement/discontinuation of practice.

The above are strategies that insurers commonly adopt to reduce their costs by restricting or limiting coverage for the policyholder.

For information, the CPA/CPAP BMS Liability insurance program offers comprehensive 10M professional liability insurance with no retroactive date / full prior acts coverage, with a 2 year Automatic ERP and the ability to secure unlimited ERP / tail coverage, insurer-paid defence costs, no deductible, choice of counsel, no cap on hourly legal costs, and continued access to insurance at the same per member cost, even if you have made a claim under the policy. The CPA/CPAP program pays millions of dollars in claims costs each year to defend insured members and has been there to protect members for over 30 years.

We are confident that the CPA/CPAP program offering is market-leading, with comprehensive and member-focussed coverage.

BMS is happy to conduct a complementary policy review for any PAA member at any time.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this document is intended to provide general guidance to members in identifying and addressing issues, increasing self-efficacy and improve practice in the field of psychology. This document is not exhaustive and may not contain all legislation or information required to make an ethically informed decision. Members are advised that this document provided by the PAA Professional Guidance Program (PGP) is not legal or clinical advice. For any legal advice, consult your liability insurance or a lawyer who specializes in psychological / health service practice. For financial or accounting advice, consult your accountant or auditor or a management accountant who specializes in Alberta health service provision.