

Get Tailored Coverage for Weight Loss Clinics with MedThree Insurance

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According to Obesity Canada, Canada's leading obesity charity, the prevalence of obesity in Canada has increased significantly over the past three decades. The 2014 Canadian Community Health Survey finds over 5.3 million adults have obesity. In the 2015 Canadian Health Measures Survey, 28.1% or more than one in four adults in Canada has obesity and may require medical support to manage their disease. (1)

Given the magnitude of this health concern, there is a growing demand for a weight loss clinic's services.

Healthy weight loss requires holistic treatment on multiple fronts. Therefore, weight loss clinics often comprise multidisciplinary teams. In such environments, exposures can be complicated and require tailored insurance coverage from a healthcare specialist MGA. Read on to discover how you can get started providing coverage for this market and learn about some of the most common exposure for Weight Loss Clinics.

What Exactly is a Weight Loss Clinic?

Weight loss clinics, or weight loss centers, help people lose weight while learning evidence-based methods to stay healthy and lose weight. The best clinics offer integrative care that includes trained clinicians, doctors, and medical staff. Typically, a clinician will perform an initial assessment and design a customized weight loss program for the client.

Weight loss centers usually have comprehensive programs that provide various types of healthcare support. Diverse professionals such as staff counselors, coaches, nurses, dietitians, and even surgeons (in the case of bariatric surgery) act together to assist clients with weight loss and weight management. As such, problems can arise from many vectors or have more opportunities to occur.

Common Exposures at Weight Loss Clinics

A lot can go wrong at a weight loss clinic. Emotional sensitivities can lead to unhappy clients if, for example, they feel they are treated poorly or emotionally abused. A client may feel they've been given wrong or harmful advice on their diet plan, like food choices, meal

instructions, or exercise routines, compelling them to make a claim against the healthcare professional or clinic. Also, if the professional coach or dietician fails to consider an allergy, this could have severe, even deadly consequences.

The client may sue the clinic in any or more of these instances. Even if the claims are false, weight loss clinic owners should still consider the cost to defend against potential lawsuits.

Other Risks For Weight Loss Clinics

Some other common exposures for weight loss centers include:

- The client does not have success with the weight loss program as was promised;
- A team member makes unrealistic or unrealized promises to the client;
- An in-house health professional prescribes medicine that causes harmful effects or health problems;
- Privacy exposures such as misplacement of records or sharing client information or stolen documents from physical property theft or cybersecurity breach;
- If there is a lack of communication between the healthcare team and the patient's primary physician, patients could develop serious health problems. For example, a patient might be taking a medication that interacts poorly with one prescribed by the weight loss clinic. The diet interferes with medicine or makes an ongoing disease worse.

A Push for Better Regulations

Those suffering from obesity are often desperate for solutions, which makes them vulnerable to exploitation. According to Dr. Yoni Freedhoff and Dr. Arya M. Sharma, "Since weight loss addresses a *medical* concern for which treatment guidelines exist, weight-loss products and services must be regulated to protect consumer health." (2) Regulation keeps weight loss management safe for consumers.

The doctors call on the Canadian government to mandate formal accreditation of weight-loss providers to ensure quality and provide consumers with an easily recognizable means of identifying evidence-based services. Health professionals must learn evidence-based principles of obesity management to ensure they can understand and support healthy weight-loss efforts.

Measures like these are necessary due to some clinics prescribing Ephedrine as a diet drug or putting consumers on a super low-calorie diet that is poorly supervised, both of which can cause harm or even death. Those that have had multiple failed attempts are likely to continue.

When clinics stay above board, using smart and safe practices and procedures, the consumers benefit, and the clinic keeps well protected from legal claims of fraud or negligence.

The MedThree Advantage

With specialized experience in the healthcare industry, MedThree Insurance Group can help by providing tailored policies for weight loss clinics.

[Visit our website](#) for more information.

Content is current as of the date of broadcast and is subject to change without notice.

Sources:

1. <https://obesitycanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Report-Card-Full-Version-PDF.pdf>
2. <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/180/4/367.full#ref-4>