



**VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA (VAC)
PROGRAM OF CHOICE (POC) 06 – MEDICAL SERVICES
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCKWAVE THERAPY (ESWT)
ALL PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES**

July 2025

We wish to inform you that Veterans Affairs Canada's (VAC) Benefit Review Committee (BRC) has recommended that extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) be considered for chronic tendinopathies **only**. Please see criteria below*.

This recommendation was made following an extensive review of the latest health and medical guidance and as part of our mandate to ensure Veterans receive safe and evidence based medical treatments.

VAC will not authorize requests for extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) for any other conditions (e.g. erectile dysfunction) on or after December 1, 2025.

Please note that any existing authorizations for extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) will terminate on November 30, 2025. This notice is being sent to allow time for you and your client to discuss an alternative form of treatment, if required.

We are continuously reviewing medical benefits offered by VAC and may consider another offering of this treatment in the future should new health and medical evidence become available.

Notice will be sent to impacted Veterans.

*Effective December 1, 2025, extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) for chronic tendinopathies may be considered when the following conditions are met:

- Provider must confirm symptoms have been present greater than six months and that the Veteran was unresponsive to standard conservative therapy; **and**
- Provider must submit number of shockwave sessions the client has received to date with each request; **and**
- Requests must not exceed three sessions (per tendinopathy) per lifetime. NOTE: any sessions provided prior to December 1, 2025, will not count towards this frequency limit.

NOTE: To avoid unnecessary delays, please ensure your pre-authorization request includes a treatment plan with:

- o Diagnosis of condition being treated; **and**
- o Medical rationale

If you have any additional questions, please contact Medavie at 1-888-261-4033.

Thank you for the ongoing care and service that you provide to our Veterans.