



## **DEADLINES AND LIMITATION PERIODS**

A limitation period is the period of time between the accident and when an action must be started or a notice given. These limitation periods are extremely important since, if one does not meet the timelines, then your patient's right to recover damages might be lost.

After a car accident there are a few limitation periods to keep in mind. For instance, with respect to your patient making a claim against his or her own accident benefits insurer, the patient should put them on notice within seven days. With respect to completing the accident benefits application, this must be done within 30 days. In order for the patient to sue his or her own insurance company for accident benefits, this must be done within two years of the denial of benefits.

The ultimate limitation period for suing the at-fault driver is two years from the date of the accident.

With respect to Municipalities, there are some very short limitation periods which apply. Specifically, a slip and fall on a sidewalk owned by a Municipality obligates one to put the Municipality on notice of the accident within 10 days.

The important thing to note, given the many different deadlines is that the patient should contact a lawyer immediately upon being involved in an accident to determine which limitation period applies.