

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:

**BENEFITS**

Subject:

**SERVICES FOR WORKERS WITH SEVERE  
INJURIES**

Authorization:

**BoD Resolution 99/09/53-57**

Date:

**September 28, 1999**

**APPLICATION 4: SELF-CARE**

**11. *When does the WCB pay a clothing allowance?***

If, because of a compensable injury, a worker uses a prosthesis, appliance, or wheelchair, the WCB may, on application by the worker, pay an allowance to help replace clothing worn or damaged as a consequence.

The clothing allowance is paid annually, usually on the anniversary of the date the prosthesis or appliance was first fitted or the wheelchair supplied. The allowance continues uninterrupted, unless the worker no longer uses the prosthesis, appliance, or wheelchair.

The allowance amount is reviewed periodically. See Addendum A at the end of this policy for the maximum amounts payable. Any retroactive payment will be for the amount in effect during the retroactive period.

**12. *What vocational rehabilitation services are available to severely injured workers?***

Usually, vocational services are determined by the impact compensable work restrictions have on earning capacity and are provided on a cost-effective basis to, as far as possible, restore the worker's pre-accident earning capacity (see Policy 04-05, *Return-to-Work Services*). When a worker is severely disabled, however, the WCB will consider the worker's overall rehabilitation and may sponsor a training program that does not improve earning capacity or, alternatively, goes beyond what is required to restore earning capacity.

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13. *Will the WCB consider additional family costs when a worker is hospitalized?*

When a severely injured worker's condition is so serious it is considered life threatening, the WCB may pay reasonable expenses resulting from the immediate family's attendance at the hospital. Reasonable expenses may include accommodation, meals, and transportation, and unusual child care expenses. Unusual child care expenses are expenses, other than casual baby-sitting, which the family would normally not pay. For example, if the child does not usually go to daycare, but is temporarily enrolled in day care so the other family members can be at the hospital.

14. *Will the WCB provide counselling for family members to help them deal with the impact of the injury?*

WCB will offer counselling services for families of workers with permanent severe injuries to help them adapt to and deal with the effect the worker's injury has on the family. This gives family members access to counselling independently from the injured worker and is in addition to the counselling provided to the worker.

The WCB offers the counselling to family members with the goal of maintaining the worker's family relationships and support network. The extent of the counselling provided depends on the individual circumstances and the severity of the injury. Generally, the more severe the injury, the more likely it is the family may need ongoing support to help them deal with the impact.

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