

**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**

*Level Two*

Workers are eligible if they:

- a. have permanent compensable disabilities which require them to use a wheelchair or similar mobility aid (e.g., scooter) in the home all or most of the time, and
- b. own their residence or are responsible for the maintenance costs of their residence.

9. *Is a hospitalized worker eligible for a home maintenance allowance?*

A worker who is confined to an institution on a permanent basis is not eligible for a home maintenance allowance. However, if a worker receiving a home maintenance allowance is temporarily hospitalized, the WCB will continue the allowance for as long as the worker maintains the residence.

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10. *How is the home maintenance allowance paid, and what is it based on?*

Level One allowance is paid monthly.

Level Two allowance is paid annually at the beginning of the year. If a worker becomes eligible part way through the year, the amount is prorated for that year.

The amounts are based on average additional costs of the included services. Level One includes labour costs only, as material costs are part of normal maintenance requirements regardless of the injury. Level Two includes labour and materials as this is additional maintenance over and above normal maintenance requirements.

The maximum amounts payable are adjusted on January 1 of each year by the same percentage as the cost-of-living adjustment paid under s.59 of the Act.

Please refer to Addendum B for home maintenance allowance amounts

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**18. *Who is eligible for the allowance?***

The special needs allowance is effective January 1, 1999. Workers who meet all of the following conditions are eligible for the allowance:

- permanent disability resulting from one or more claims is 50% or greater
- the date of accident of the claim or claims resulting in the 50% or greater disability is on or before December 31, 1994
- the worker has not taken a lump sum commutation in full settlement of the claim(s). In the case of multiple claims, the allowance will be calculated and paid on any remaining claims that have not been paid in full through a lump sum commutation.

**19. *How is the allowance calculated and paid?***

The allowance is paid each January as an annual allowance, beginning in 1999. The allowance is payable for the worker's lifetime. It is calculated using a progressive formula, based on the worker's annual pension amount as of January 1, 1999. When there are multiple claims, each claim is calculated separately:

- 1% of the annual pension amount (including s.58 supplements) for each year of disability for the years 1982 – 1994 inclusive, including the year of accident
- 2% of the current annual pension amount (including s.58 supplements) for each year of disability prior to 1982, including the year of accident

Supplements paid under s.58 of the Act are included with the annual pension amount in the calculation. If the worker no longer receives a s.58 supplement because he

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*Calculation of the allowance  
(continued)*

or she reached age 65 before January 1, 1999, the WCB will include an annualized amount based on the s.58 supplement in effect at the time the worker reached age 65.

The allowance will be adjusted by the same percentage as the cost-of-living adjustment on January 1 of each year, starting in 2000.

The total sum of the annual special needs allowance and earnings replacement benefits the worker is entitled to receive for the same claim(s) cannot exceed the maximum compensation amount, based on maximum insurable earnings in the allowance year.

**20. *What if an injured worker becomes eligible for the allowance after January 1, 1999?***

A worker may become eligible for the allowance after January 1, 1999, if:

- a medical reassessment confirms the worker's cumulative disability has increased so it is equal to or greater than 50%, and
- the claim(s) resulting in the disability of 50% or more occurred on or before December 31, 1994.

In these circumstances, the allowance will be effective the date the cumulative disability is considered to have reached 50%, or January 1, 1999, whichever is later.

The annual pension as of the effective date of the allowance will be used to calculate the allowance amount.

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**ADDENDUM A**

**MAXIMUM CLOTHING ALLOWANCES**

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Appliance/Prosthesis</b>	<b>Maximum Amount</b>
September 1, 1991	Upper limb prosthesis/appliance Lower limb prosthesis/appliance Wheelchair	\$200.00 \$300.00 \$300.00
April 1, 1986	Upper limb prosthesis/appliance Lower limb prosthesis/appliance Wheelchair	\$150.00 \$300.00 \$300.00
January 1, 1982	Upper limb prosthesis/appliance Lower limb prosthesis/appliance Wheelchair	\$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00
January 1, 1981	Upper limb prosthesis/appliance Lower limb prosthesis/appliance	\$180.00 \$180.00
July 1, 1977	Upper limb prosthesis/appliance Lower limb prosthesis/appliance	\$150.00 \$150.00
January 1, 1974	Upper limb prosthesis/appliance Lower limb prosthesis/appliance	\$100.00 \$100.00
May 1, 1969	Upper torso Lower torso	\$50.00 \$100.00

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**ADDENDUM B**

**HOME MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES\***

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Level 1 (maximum)</b>	<b>Level 2</b>
January 1, 1974	\$100/month	N/A
April 1, 1982	\$125/month	N/A
January 1, 1999	\$160/month	N/A
January 1, 2000	\$162.26/month	\$1,485/year
January 1, 2001	\$167.11/month	\$1,529.40/year
January 1, 2002	\$170.45/month	\$1,559.99/year

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\*Before January 1, 2000, the Level 1 home maintenance allowance was called an independence allowance.