

# Hospitalization benefits

## Ambulance costs

Your employer is responsible for transportation from the site of the accident to the nearest hospital, physician's office or other appropriate facility to treat your condition.

If you have Personal Coverage and are injured while working, you are considered the employer and are responsible for your own transportation to a treatment facility. If this causes financial hardship, your case manager or adjudicator may direct the Medical Aid unit to cost share the bill.

To promote recovery, your attending physician may recommend you be discharged from the hospital and returned home by ambulance. In this case, WCB-Alberta is responsible for your transportation home.

## Hospital accommodations

*Private Room* - WCB-Alberta pays public ward rates for hospitalization unless there is a medical need for a private or semiprivate room (as stated by a hospital social worker, spinal cord team or consultant). If you do not require but request a private or semiprivate room, you or your insurance carrier will be responsible for the extra costs.

*Basic Toiletries* - Your case manager may provide a one-time payment to purchase toothpaste, shampoos, etc. (if your residence is not in the same town or city as the treatment facility). Ongoing toiletry expenses are your responsibility. Contact your adjudicator or case manager for details.

\* If you suffered hand or arm damage, in a compensable accident, a one-time payment may be covered for the purchase of an electric shaver (men and women). Receipt is required for reimbursement. Contact your adjudicator or case manager for details.

*Television and Phone* - If you are hospitalized or it is expected that you will be hospitalized for more than 7 consecutive days, television and telephone rental are paid for during the length of your hospital stay.

*Long Distance Phone* - If you are hospitalized between seven to 13 consecutive days, you are covered for a total of 30 long distance minutes if your primary residence is not in the town or city where you are hospitalized. If you are hospitalized for 14 consecutive days or more, you are covered up to a maximum of 70 long distance minutes per week if your primary residence is not in the town or city where you are hospitalized. The long distance benefit is intended to help you handle concerns regarding immediate family. Original receipts are required.

*Clothing* - If your clothing was lost, damaged or destroyed at the time of your injury you can provide a list of articles and receipts for repair or reimbursement. Contact your adjudicator or case manager for details. If, because of a compensable (acceptable work-related) injury, you use a prosthesis, appliance, or wheelchair, WCB-Alberta may, pay an allowance to help replace clothing worn or damaged as a result.

The clothing allowance is paid annually, usually on the anniversary of the date the prosthesis or appliance was first fitted or a wheelchair first supplied. The allowance continues for as long as you use the prosthesis, appliance or wheelchair. Contact your case manager for further information.

### Spousal/adult interdependent partner benefits

**Accommodation** - If you have been hospitalized for less than 14 days, one overnight accommodations allowance may be authorized per week that you are in hospital (if no personal attendant is involved). If you have been hospitalized for more than 14 days, the actual cost of accommodation in a motel, hotel, guest house, inn or other similar establishment up to a maximum amount per night may be reimbursed. Receipts are required. (If your spouse/adult interdependent partner does not have original receipts, for example, a spouse/adult interdependent partner stays at a private residence, your case manager may issue an allowance)

**Meals** - If you have been hospitalized for **less than 14 days**, one overnight allowance for meals may be authorized per week that you are in hospital (if no personal attendant is involved). If you are hospitalized for **14 days or more**, a standard meal allowance may be issued. Meals should be recorded on the expense log (Claimant Expense Report - Form C-688, available from your case manager).

Daily maximums are:

- Breakfast - \$9.00 per day
- Lunch - \$13.00 per day
- Dinner - \$22.00 per day

Receipts are **not required** for payment of a meal allowance.

**Time Lost** -The case manager may approve a wage replacement of gross earnings (confirmed in writing by an employer) to a maximum of one month. This applies to a spouse/adult interdependent partner, common-law partner, one parent or next of kin. Discuss this with your case manager for authorization.

**Travel** - One round trip per week may be authorized for your spouse/adult interdependent partner. Bus fare is normally approved, however, if bus service is unavailable, reimbursement for kilometers may be considered. Your spouse/adult interdependent partner may provide their own transportation and keep track of kilometers travelled on the attached expense log.

\* Mileage is not payable to those who live within city limits.