

**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 1: COMMUNICATION

1. *What are communication aids?*

Communication aids are any devices which improve an individual's ability to communicate when loss of function has impaired that ability. Aids can include, but are not limited to:

- cordless, portable, voice-activated, or cellular telephones
- custom designed telephone systems
- Lifeline (a direct emergency telephone line)
- writing aids, such as voice- or stylus-activated computers
- reading aids, such as page turners, voice, stylist, or sip and puff activated computers
- any visual aids required for sight-impaired workers, including a guide dog (and all associated costs, e.g., veterinarian and food bills) when necessary

2. *Who is eligible for these types of devices?*

Any worker who has an impaired ability to communicate as a result of a work-related injury will be provided with appropriate aids, as determined by WCB and, if necessary, an occupational therapist's assessment.

3. *Who is responsible for the replacement and maintenance of the aids?*

WCB will pay for the repair and replacement of the equipment when necessary, provided WCB has retained ownership of the equipment or has agreed to pay for repair and replacement.

4. *When is this policy application effective?*

This policy application (Application 1 – Communication) is effective January 1, 2000, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

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Previous versions

- [Policy 0407 Part II - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part II - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part II - January 2000](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part II - February 1999](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part II \(consolidated manual 1st Issue\) - February 1997](#)