

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

OTHER HOME SERVICES

Authorization

BoD Resolution 2013/08/27

Date:

October 31, 2013

APPLICATION 1: SHORT-TERM HOME ASSISTANCE

1. *What is short-term home assistance?*

Short-term home assistance is medical aid intended to provide support and assistance to seriously injured workers (see Part I, 2.0) so that they can maintain their homes during the acute phase of medical recovery from a serious injury.

The assistance provided will depend on the specific circumstances, but may include assistance with inside and outside maintenance tasks such as lawn care, snow shovelling, and homemaking.

2. *Who is eligible for short-term home assistance?*

Workers who have serious compensable injuries, but are not severely disabled, may be eligible for short-term home assistance if all of the following criteria are met (see Policy 04-07 for information on supports and services for workers with severe injuries):

- The worker has a temporary functional disability that prevents the worker from performing the necessary tasks
- Providing training and/or assistive aids would not enable the worker to safely perform the tasks or, given the nature and duration of the injury, it is more cost-effective to provide short-term home assistance
- The worker was previously responsible for performing the tasks and there is no-one else available in the home who could safely perform the tasks
- The worker did not regularly hire someone to provide the services prior to the accident (for example, if the worker regularly hired a snow removal service before the accident, WCB will not pay for the service under short-term home assistance as the worker is not incurring additional costs)

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3. *Are there any restrictions on who provides the services or the amounts payable?*

The required services will be provided by authorized service providers and WCB will pay the service providers directly.

When short-term home assistance is approved, WCB will advise the worker of available service providers in the worker’s locale. If there are no available service providers in the area, WCB will consider other arrangements on a case-by-case basis but will not pay more than average industry costs.

WCB will determine the nature and extent of the services provided according to the worker’s compensable functional restrictions. The amount paid for lawn care or snow shovelling in any month will not exceed the maximum monthly amount of a Home Maintenance Allowance Level 1 (see Addendum A).

4. *How long will short-term home assistance continue?*

Short-term home assistance is a temporary benefit paid during the acute recovery phase and will vary according to the nature of the injury, the required treatment, and the worker’s living arrangements. Duration will usually be between one to twelve weeks but may be extended if supported by medical evidence.

If it appears that the worker will have permanent restrictions and require long-term assistance, WCB will determine if the worker is eligible for other home supports such as a Home Maintenance Allowance Level 1 (see Application 2) and/or a Housekeeping Allowance (see Application 3).

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5. *Will WCB pay short-term home assistance retroactively?*

WCB will not pay short-term home assistance retroactively unless the following criteria are met:

- The worker needed assistance with home upkeep during the acute recovery phase of a serious compensable injury, and
- The worker has receipts to confirm that expenses were incurred hiring a service provider to perform the tasks that the worker was unable to do.

6. *When is this policy application effective?*

This policy application (Application 1 – Short-term Home Assistance) is effective December 1, 2013, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

Previous versions

- [Policy 0410 Part II - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0410 Part II - December 2013](#)