

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

**SERVICES FOR WORKERS WITH SEVERE
INJURIES**

Authorization:

BoD Resolution 2013/08/27

Date:

October 31, 2013

REFERENCE:

[*Workers' Compensation Act, RSA 2000, Part 5, Section 89*](#)

POLICY:

To help *severely injured workers* become more independent, WCB provides *support and assistance* in a consistent, timely and cost-effective manner.

WCB determines the worker's eligibility according to the severity of the injury and the worker's functional needs. Each case is judged on its own merit.

This policy is effective December 1, 2013, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

INTERPRETATION

1.0 Severely Injured Workers

A worker is considered severely injured when:

- a) because of the compensable injury, the worker has severe and prolonged functional limitations; and
- b) because of those functional limitations, needs temporary or permanent assistance with communication, mobility, or self-care.

Severe injuries include such injuries as spinal cord injuries, severe burns, moderate to severe brain injuries, major amputations, significant respiratory conditions, total loss of vision, terminal cancers, bilateral arm or bilateral leg fractures, and any other injuries of similar severity.

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2.0 Support and Assistance

Not all severely injured workers need the same level of support and assistance. WCB determines and provides the type and amount of assistance required as a result of the compensable injury, based on medical evidence and/or an occupational therapist's recommendation.

Workers with severe injuries may require extensive medical, social, psychological, and vocational support and assistance. Support and assistance is provided in the forms of devices and aids; allowances and services for increasing independence; and skills training. Some examples are:

- communication aids
- home and/or vehicle modifications to assist with the worker's mobility
- medical aids necessary for reaching and maintaining reasonable levels of health and safety
- personal care, home maintenance, and clothing allowances
- offering psychological counselling for the worker and worker's family to help them deal with the consequences of the injury
- legal costs for a court appointment of a Co-decision-maker, Guardian or Trustee

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Please see Part II for additional information on the following subjects:

Application

- 1 – [Communication](#)
- 2 – [Mobility](#)
- 3 – [Medical Aids](#)
- 4 – [Self-Care](#)
- 5 – [Co-decision-makers, Guardians and Trustees](#)

Addendum[Addendum A – Maximum Clothing Allowances](#)[Addendum B – Home Maintenance Allowance Level 2](#)**Previous versions**

- [Policy 0407 Part I - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I - December 2013](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I - January 2011](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I - January 2002](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I - January 2000](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I - June 1999](#)
- [Policy 0407 Part I \(consolidated manual 1st Issue\) - February 1997](#)