

Hospitalization benefits

You've been hurt at work and may have some questions about hospitalization costs.

WCB-Alberta will pay for hospitalization costs as long as the costs are directly related to your compensable (accepted as work-related) injury/illness. The term 'directly related' means that hospitalization is required because of your accepted work related injury/illness.

Ambulance costs

Your employer is responsible for transportation (including costs) 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 with us and are injured while working, you are considered the employer and are responsible for your own transportation (including costs) 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.

We will pay for ambulance costs if you are discharged from the hospital and are returned home by ambulance, or if you need to be transported from one hospital/facility to another.

Hospital accommodations

Private room – we will pay 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). You or your insurance carrier will be responsible for the extra costs in cases where you, while not requiring it, request a private or semiprivate room.

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

If you suffered hand or arm damage a one-time payment may be covered for the purchase of an electric shaver (men and women). You will need to send in the original receipt in order to be reimbursed. 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 seven consecutive days, television and telephone rental are paid for during the length of your hospital stay. Contact your adjudicator or case manager for details.

Long distance phone – it is important that you are able to contact loved ones while you are in the hospital. Given this, we will pay for long distance phone calls if your primary residence is not in the town or city where you are hospitalized. If you are hospitalized:

- Between seven to 13 consecutive days, you are covered for a total of 30 long distance minutes.
- For 14 consecutive days or more, you are covered up to a maximum of 70 long distance minutes per week.

We will need your original receipts in order to reimburse you. Contact your adjudicator or case manager for details.

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.

Spousal/adult interdependent partner benefits

Accommodation – if you are hospitalized for **less than 14 days**, one overnight accommodation allowance may be authorized per week that you are in hospital (if no personal attendant is involved). If you are 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 are 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 - \$10.00 per day

Lunch - \$13.00 per day

Dinner - \$24.00 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 kilometres may be considered. Your spouse/adult interdependent partner may provide their own transportation and keep track of kilometres travelled on an expense log that you can obtain from your case manager*.

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

It is important you understand the information you receive regarding your entitlement to WCB-Alberta benefits and services.

Feel free to call our Claims Contact Centre, your adjudicator or case manager any time you have a question or concern.

We are here to help you through your recovery toward a safe and timely return-to-work.

