

Section	Policy
40	44.120.30

Section Title: Benefits Administration - *Medical Aid*
Subject: Support for Daily Living
Effective Date: January 1, 2025

A. POLICY PURPOSE

Section 27 of *The Workers Compensation Act* (the Act) authorizes the Workers Compensation Board (WCB) to fund medical aid it considers necessary or advisable to cure or provide relief from an injury resulting from a workplace accident.

By providing medical aid, the WCB aims to minimize the impacts of a worker's injuries and promote recovery and return to work.

Support for daily living is a type of medical aid. As such, the principles identified in Policy 44.120.10, *Medical Aid*, also apply in this policy.

This policy:

- specifically outlines the criteria that must be met before the WCB will provide support for daily living to an injured worker;
- sets out some additional principles to guide WCB decision makers when determining what types of support to provide and the duration of that support; and
- describes the types of support the WCB typically provides.

B. CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT

The WCB makes decisions about whether to provide support for daily living, the types of support it provides, and the duration of that support on a case-by-case basis. Before providing support for daily living, the WCB must determine that a compensable workplace injury resulted in the worker's reduced ability to engage in daily activities.

The WCB will not provide support for daily living that arises from non work-related causes, such as the aging process or injuries arising outside of work.

C. PRINCIPLES

Decisions about the types of support to provide and the duration of that support are guided by the following principles:

- The support should compensate the worker for additional cost they incur to engage in the activities of daily living, and reflect the type and level of activity the worker engaged in prior to the injury.
- The support should address the worker's needs in the most cost-effective way possible.
- The support should enhance, not impede, the worker's recovery and return to work.
- The support is based on assessments of the injured worker's needs and abilities, and may be adjusted during recovery.
- The WCB is not responsible for compensating costs that have not been previously approved in writing.

D. TYPES OF SUPPORT

Personal Care

Injured workers who are unable to adequately care for themselves may require personal care attendants to provide assistance with hygiene, grooming, feeding, dressing, toilet functions and food preparation. They may also require an attendant to make sure they are getting health care, such as clean dressings and medication.

Injured workers may also require assistive equipment in order to independently manage their personal care needs, or help with personal mobility and assistance outside of the home for medical appointments or activities required for daily living.

The WCB may provide support to fund the costs of these activities and items.

Independent Living

A worker's ability to recover from their injury in their own home is not only cost-effective, but may improve recovery time. The WCB may provide support to facilitate a worker's ability to continue to live independently and safely in their own home, paying the costs of lawn care, snow removal, laundry, routine housekeeping, grocery shopping and community outings.

Child Care/ Other Dependent Care

The WCB may provide support when the worker incurs additional costs in providing care to their children or other dependants, provided those additional costs are a result of the work-related injury.

Home Modifications

The WCB may support home modifications if they are required to allow an injured worker to safely access their primary residence and parts of the residence that are necessary to daily life. Eligibility is generally limited to workers with permanent injuries, though assistance may be provided in cases of temporary injuries, such as the construction of a wheelchair ramp.

Vehicle Purchase / Modifications

The WCB may provide support towards the purchase or modification of a vehicle. Eligibility is generally limited to workers with permanent injuries, in situations where modifications are required for workers to safely operate a vehicle for daily living.

Clothing and Footwear

The WCB may provide support for additional costs associated with the purchase of clothing and footwear, including where special footwear or other special clothing is required, or footwear or clothing must be replaced more frequently as a result of a work-related injury.

Payment of Public Guardian and Trustee or Committee Fees

If a worker lacks the capacity to make financial or personal decisions due to a work-related injury and a Public Guardian and Trustee or Committee has been appointed to manage the worker's affairs, associated fees may be reimbursed.

Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances the WCB may provide support beyond that which is outlined in this policy.

Further details concerning the various types of support are provided in the Administrative Guidelines associated with this policy.

E. REFERENCES

The Workers Compensation Act, sections 1(1), 27 and 37.

Related WCB Policies:

44.120.10, *Medical Aid*

History:

1. Policy 44.120.30, *Attendants' Allowance*: Policy revised and issued on June 19, 1991, by Board Order 9/91. Allowances increased effective May 1, 1999, by Board Order 19/99.
2. Policy 44.120.160, *Residence Renovation Costs*: Board Order 115/84 rewritten as policy effective August 30, 1984. History added April 5, 1994.
3. Policy 44.120.200, *Clothing Allowance*: Policy established June 21, 1990, by Board Order 16/90, effective September 1, 1990. Allowance increased effective May 1, 1999, by Board Order 20/99.
4. Policy 44.120.30, *Support for Daily Living*: Policy established by Board Order 15/00 effective for all decisions on or after October 1, 2000. Board Order 15/00 rescinded the following policies effective October 1, 2000: 44.120.30, *Attendants Allowance*; 44.120.160, *Resident Renovation Costs*; 44.120.200, *Clothing Allowance*.
5. Policy 44.120.30, *Support for Daily Living* – revised to clarify that annual indexing date for all allowance amounts in the policy is October 1.
6. Policy 44.120.30, *Support for Daily Living* – revised by Board Order 19/02 effective October 1, 2000, to clarify when policy applies to “injured” workers and when it applies to “severely injured” workers; and to substitute maximum hourly rate paid to private healthcare providers with provision to enter into preferred provider agreements with major healthcare providers.
7. In Section 1.A. the word illnesses has been changed to illness and Section D - #03 has been changed to #3.
8. Updated July 1, 2005 – Bill 41 effective July 6, 2001, redefined “spouse” and added a separate definition of “common-law partner”. The change in the policy adds the phrase “or common-law partner” after “spouse”.
9. Minor formatting changes were made to the policy June 27, 2012.
10. Policy 44.120.30, *Support for Daily Living*, revised to clarify parameters, criteria and eligibility effective March 1, 2014 by Board Order No. 36/13 on December 19, 2013.
11. Revised by Board Order No. 04/15 on January 22, 2015, to clarify the application of the effective date.
12. Revised by Board Order 40/19 on November 28, 2019 to clarify that the WCB may reimburse the Public Guardian and Trustee or Committee fee incurred as a result of a compensable injury.
13. In November 2020, the history section was reduced by removing entries related to allowance updates from a previous policy. Minor formatting changes were also made to the policy.
14. In March 2021, the effective date was changed to “For all decisions on or after March 1, 2014” from “This Policy applies to all decisions made on or after March 1, 2014, with respect to entitlement on or after March 1, 2014. Where a decision on entitlement that was made prior to March 1, 2014, is reconsidered on or after that date, entitlement is based on the policy in effect at the time of the initial decision prior to March 1, 2014”. The previous effective date provided clarity regarding which policy should apply to a particular decision. A 5 year history of clothing and footwear allowances was added to section C of the Administrative Guidelines.

15. In December 2022, the policy was updated to reflect the amendment and renumbering of section 27 by *The Workers Compensation Amendment Act* (commonly referred to as Bill 18).
16. Policy revised by Board Order No. 35/24 on October 3, 2024 to align with revisions to the Act, clarify that support for daily living is a specific type of medical aid, and to remove the administrative guidelines from the policy.