



PERMANENT PARTIAL IMPAIRMENT AWARD

What is a permanent partial impairment award (PPI)?

If you sustain a work related injury or illness that results in a permanent and measurable change (termed an impairment) to how the affected part of your body functions, you may be entitled to a permanent partial impairment (PPI) award. This benefit is separate from, and in addition to, other WCB benefits.

At what point during my claim will the WCB decide if I have a PPI?

An assessment for and rating of a permanent impairment will occur when you have recovered as much as possible from the WCB accepted injury or illness. This is considered at a minimum of one year after an injury or related surgery.

How does the WCB decide if I have a PPI?

WCB Healthcare reviews medical information from your file that shows possible impairment (such as an audiogram in a hearing loss case).

In many cases, it is necessary to have a WCB healthcare consultant examine you to determine if your injury has resulted in a loss of function and, if so, to what extent. The examination and other evidence will be used to determine if you have a permanent partial impairment as outlined in our [Impairment Policy](#) and will then make recommendations to your Case Manager regarding a PPI rating.

Once it's established that I have a PPI, what happens next?

Impairment ratings are established based on the WCB Impairment Rating Schedule, as a percentage of the whole body, and are based on the following factors (either separately or in combination):

- loss of a body part
- loss of mobility in the joints
- loss of organ function, or
- cosmetic disfigurement of the body.

For example, the loss of part of an index finger represents an impairment, for which the WCB Permanent Partial Impairment Rating Schedule provides an impairment rating of between 1.0% and 7.0%, depending on how much of the finger was lost.

Once your PPI rating is determined, the WCB will assign a dollar value to the rating based on the legislated amount and the year of your claim.

For example, if your injury occurred in 2022, the PPI award amount would be \$1,560 for each full percentage of impairment up to 30% and \$1,880 for each full percentage in excess of 30%.



If you have a pre-existing condition, you are still eligible for an impairment award; however, it may be reduced, depending on the effect of the pre-existing condition on your work-related impairment.

Does the award include money for pain and suffering?

No. The *Workers Compensation Act* does not provide impairment ratings for pain and suffering.

Do benefits for the same impairment from programs other than WCB affect my PPI award from the WCB?

No. You are entitled to collect payments from other insurance programs for the same permanent partial impairment. We will not deduct these amounts from your benefits or award.

What if I don't agree with the rating of my impairment?

If you do not agree with the impairment rating established by the WCB, you can appeal this decision. Explain to us, in writing, exactly where you feel the error was made and on what grounds you're basing your appeal. For more information, please see the [Review Office FAQ](#).

What happens if my impairment gets worse?

If your condition worsens after your impairment rating is determined, you can ask for a review of the degree of your impairment. A review will occur no sooner than two years from the last assessment.