



WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Update 2006 – 5

TO: HOLDERS OF THE *REHABILITATION SERVICES & CLAIMS MANUAL – VOLUME II*

This update of the *Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual* contains amendments to the *Manual* implemented since update 2006 – 4.

This amendment includes Consumer Price Index adjustments to policy item #79.00 *Clothing Allowance* which is effective **July 1, 2006**.

A summary of the amendment is attached and the amended pages are included as part of the package.

If you have any questions regarding subscription information for updates to the *Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual*, please call WorkSafeBC Customer Service at the following numbers:

Local phone: 604-232-9704
Toll-free phone: 1-866-319-9704

Local fax: 604-232-9703
Toll-free fax: 1-888-232-9714

Roberta Ellis
Vice-President
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Attachments

Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II
SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS – Update 2006 – 5

Chapter 10	Pages 33 - 34	Policy item #79.00 <i>Clothing Allowance</i> Consumer Price Index Adjustments
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The amounts of the clothing allowances are set out below:

	Single Upper Limb Amputee	Bilateral Upper Limb Amputee	Lower Limb Amputee or Requires a Leg Brace	Upper and Lower Limb Amputee
July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006	\$277.57	\$556.50	\$556.50	\$834.15
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007	\$284.35	\$570.09	\$570.09	\$854.53

If required, earlier figures may be obtained by contacting the Board.

Effective June 30, 2002, the amounts of the clothing allowances will be adjusted on July 1st of each year. The Board determines the percentage change to be applied annually to these amounts by comparing the percentage change in the consumer price index for April of the current year to April of the previous year.

Payment of the allowance is automatically made by virtue of the amputation. Proof is required neither of the wearing of the prosthesis or prostheses nor of the replacement, repair, or damage to clothing. Payment in the case of leg braces is contingent on the continued wearing of the apparatus.

Entitlement to this allowance commences as of the date of the amputation or the worker's commencing to use the brace or wheelchair. Payment is made by separate cheque on July 1st of each year. This is a full calendar year payment and covers the prior six months and the following six months in the year of payment. The first payment is made on the July 1st following the initiation of pension payments and this first payment will include any retroactive entitlement for prior periods of disability not covered by this first annual payment.

Payment of this clothing allowance is withheld while a worker is in prison. The amount withheld is paid to the worker on release if the period in prison was less than one year. If the period in prison is more than one year, the clothing allowance is not paid for each full year the worker was in prison.

#80.00 PERSONAL CARE EXPENSES OR ALLOWANCES

In cases of major injuries, such as spinal cord injuries, resulting in paraplegia or quadriplegia, severe head injuries, hemiplegia, aphasia, near or total blindness, multiple amputations, or severe disability as a result of occupational diseases,

the Board may pay certain personal care expenses. These expenses are in addition to wage-loss or permanent disability payments.

Personal care expenses may be paid when a seriously disabled person, though not confined to an institution, has very limited mobility or requires assistance in toilet functions, bathing, eating, or has other problems in caring for himself or herself, or needs assistance to a lesser or greater degree in daily living. Personal care expenses are payable at the discretion of the Board. An investigation is made of the circumstances of each case.

While aimed primarily at situations where there is severe permanent disability, in limited situations personal care expenses may also be paid in cases of severe temporary disability. Before making temporary payments, consideration is given to such factors as the worker's home and family situation, geographical location, the medical condition and other relevant difficulties.

In lieu of the actual personal care expenses incurred by the worker, the Board may pay a flat rate personal care allowance determined in accordance with the principles set out in policy item #80.10 and policy item #80.20 below.

The payment of personal care expenses or allowances will cease upon the death of the worker.

#80.10 Levels of Personal Care Allowances

There are five levels of personal care allowances:

Level 1: The worker has restricted mobility but can feed, partly cleanse and otherwise care for himself or herself but does need some assistance in acts of daily living.

Examples are:

Blindness or near blindness, multiple amputations at or above the wrist or ankle, aphasia, hemiplegia, or any permanent disability resulting in a loss of function of the limbs, but not to an extent that significantly impairs other body functions.

Level 2: Restricted mobility. Worker can feed, clothe and wash himself or herself but needs assistance in other aspects of personal care and acts of daily living.

This includes:

Paraplegia with bowel and bladder functions impaired.