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**2017/05/25-01**

## **THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**RE: Item C10-82.00, *Clothing Allowances*, of the  
*Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II***

#### **WHEREAS:**

Pursuant to section 82 of the *Workers Compensation Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 492 and amendments thereto ("*Act*"), the Board of Directors must set and revise as necessary the policies of the Board of Directors, including policies respecting compensation, assessment, rehabilitation, and occupational health and safety;

#### **AND WHEREAS:**

Pursuant to section 21 of the *Act*, WorkSafeBC has the authority to furnish or provide health care benefits that it considers reasonably necessary to cure and relieve injured workers from the effects of their injury;

#### **AND WHEREAS:**

The policies in Chapter 10 of the *Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II* ("*RS&CM*") provide direction on the provision of health care under the *Act*;

#### **AND WHEREAS:**

Item C10-82.00, *Clothing Allowances*, of the *RS&CM* was identified as requiring review and amendment;

#### **AND WHEREAS:**

The Policy, Regulation and Research Division has undertaken stakeholder consultation on this issue and has advised the Board of Directors on the results of the consultation;

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**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLVES THAT:**

1. Item C10-82.00, *Clothing Allowances*, of the *RS&CM* is amended, and is attached as Appendix A to this Resolution;
2. Item C10-82.00 applies to health care expenses incurred and health care provided on or after January 1, 2018;
3. This Resolution is effective January 1, 2018; and
4. This Resolution constitutes a policy decision of the Board of Directors.

DATED at Richmond, British Columbia, May 25, 2017.

**By the Workers' Compensation Board**

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**JOHN BECKETT, CRSP, CPHR, MBA, ICD.D  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## APPENDIX A

ADDITIONS IN BOLD, DELETIONS STRUCKTHROUGH



## REHABILITATION SERVICES & CLAIMS MANUAL

RE: Clothing Allowances

ITEM: C10-82.00

### BACKGROUND

#### 1. Explanatory Notes

This policy provides guidance on a worker's entitlement to clothing allowances.

#### 2. The Act

Section 21:

- (1) See Item C10-72.00.

### POLICY

#### 1. GENERAL

The Board may pay the clothing allowances set out below to upper and/or lower limb amputees wearing prostheses, and to workers wearing an upper or lower limb brace, or a back brace. The amputation must be at or above the wrist, or at or above the ankle. **An upper limb brace is a brace worn at or above the wrist.** The brace must be either a major joint brace with rigid frame or contain rigid materials; or a hard back brace, with a rigid frame or shell.

**Workers are paid a clothing allowance under one category as set out below:**

	Jan. 1, 2016- Dec. 31, 2016	Jan. 1, 2017- Dec. 31, 2017
Upper Limb	\$338.98	\$344.03
Lower Limb	\$679.60	\$689.75
Bilateral Limb	\$679.60	\$689.75
Upper and Lower Limb	\$1,018.68	\$1,033.90

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### REHABILITATION SERVICES & CLAIMS MANUAL

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

The Board also pays the allowance to a worker confined to a wheelchair, who is not otherwise entitled, at the same rate as is payable to a lower limb amputee **upper and lower limb rate**. **The Board pays the allowance to a worker wearing a back brace at the upper and lower limb rate.**

~~The annual amounts of the clothing allowances are set out below.~~

	Single Upper Limb Amputee	Bilateral Upper Limb Amputee	Lower Limb Amputee or Requires a Brace	Upper and Lower Limb Amputee
<del>Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2016</del>	\$338.98	\$679.60	\$679.60	\$1,018.68
<del>Jan. 1, 2017 – Dec. 31, 2017</del>	\$344.03	\$689.75	\$689.75	\$1,033.90

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

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, the Board adjusts the amounts of the clothing allowances on January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 October of the previous year with the consumer price index for October of the year prior to the previous year.

The Board automatically pays the clothing allowance to a worker with an amputation at or above the wrist, or at or above the ankle. Proof is not required of the wearing of the prosthesis or prostheses, nor of the replacement, repair, or damage to clothing. In the case of braces however, the Board only pays the clothing allowance contingent on the worker's continued wearing of the apparatus as prescribed. Similarly, in the case of a worker confined to a wheelchair, the Board only pays the clothing allowance contingent on the worker's continued use of the wheelchair as prescribed.

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### REHABILITATION SERVICES & CLAIMS MANUAL

Entitlement to the clothing allowance commences as of the date of the amputation or the worker commencing to use the brace or wheelchair. ~~The Board pays by separate cheque on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. This is a full calendar year payment and covers the year of payment.~~ The Board makes the first payment on the January 1<sup>st</sup> following the initiation of the permanent disability award and this first payment includes any retroactive entitlement for prior periods of disability not previously paid. **Subsequent payments are made annually.**

The Board withholds payment of the clothing allowance while a worker is in prison. The Board pays the amount withheld to the worker on release, if the period in prison was less than one year. If the period in prison was more than one year, the Board does not pay the clothing allowance for each full year the worker was in prison.

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<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<del>January 1, 2015</del> <b>January 1, 2018</b>
<b>AUTHORITY:</b>	Section 21 of the Act.
<b>CROSS REFERENCES:</b>	C10-79.00, <i>Health Care Supplies and Equipment</i> , and C10-84.00, <i>Additional Benefits for Severely Disabled Workers</i> .
<b>HISTORY:</b>	<b>January 2018 – Policy amended to provide additional clarification of the categories in the clothing allowance table; more guidance on what type of brace qualifies for an allowance; clarification that an allowance is payable under one category only; and the method and timing of payments was updated.</b> This policy replaces former policy item #79.00 of the <i>Rehabilitation Services &amp; Claims Manual</i> , Volume II. October 1, 2007 – revised to change the reference to the date of clothing allowance adjustments from July to January 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year.
<b>APPLICATION:</b>	<del>This Item applies to health care expenses incurred and health care provided on or after January 1, 2015.</del> <b>This Item applies to health care expenses incurred and health care provided on or after January 1, 2018.</b>