

POLICY NUMBER: POL-06

**Chapter:
CLAIMS**

**Subject:
PRESCRIPTION EYEWEAR**

**Effective Date:
January 20, 1994**

**Last Update:
December 10, 2020**

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of the policy is to explain how the Workers Compensation Board determines a worker's entitlement to prescription eyewear and to outline the reimbursement rates, if accepted.

REFERENCE:

Workers Compensation Act R. S. P. E. I. 1988, Cap. W-7.1, Section 18
Workers Compensation Board Policy, POL-86, Temporary Wage Loss Benefits

DEFINITION:

In this policy:

"Prescription eyewear" means a device, prescribed by a health care provider, used to correct or modify an individual's vision.

POLICY:

Prescription Eyewear Resulting From An Injury

1. The Workers Compensation Board will pay for new prescription eyewear for a worker
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who requires prescription eyewear:

- (a) as a result of a compensable workplace injury; or
- (b) due to a change to the worker's existing prescription as a result of a compensable workplace injury.

Reimbursement rates are subject to the following limits:

Lenses:	Actual cost
Contact lenses:	Actual cost
Frames:	\$250

- 2. Where a worker requires new prescription eyewear as a result of a compensable eye injury, the Workers Compensation Board will pay for replacement every four years or when a change to the prescription is required, whichever occurs earlier.

Damaged Prescription Eyewear

- 3. The Workers Compensation Board will pay to repair or replace prescription eyewear worn at the time of an accident and damaged as a result of a specific external force, arising out of and in the course of employment. This includes prescription safety glasses if they were originally paid for by the worker.
- 4. The Workers Compensation Board will not pay to repair or replace prescription eyewear resulting from damage or loss because the eyewear fell off the worker's face (for example, ill-fitting) or as a result of normal wear and tear.
- 5. The Workers Compensation Board will consider repairs first. However, if repairs are not feasible, the Workers Compensation Board will replace the prescription eyewear on a one time basis.

Reimbursement rates for the replacement or repair of prescription eyewear are subject to the following limits:

Lenses:	Replacement cost of the existing eyewear.
Contact lenses:	Replacement cost of the existing eyewear.
Frames	\$250

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6. In addition to the limits listed above, the cost of enhancements (for example, tinting) will also be covered if such enhancements were present at the time of the accident.
 7. The Workers Compensation Board will pay for eye examinations only when required as a result of a compensable workplace injury.
 8. Where there is objective medical information which demonstrates the worker has been prevented from earning income while waiting for the replacement of the damaged prescription eyewear, wage loss benefits may be paid pursuant to the Workers Compensation Board policy POL-86, Temporary Wage Loss Benefits.
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HISTORY:

December 10, 2020 - Non-substantive changes to reflect revisions to policy, POL-86, Temporary Wage Loss Benefits.

March 26, 2015 - Amended to clarify entitlement for prescription eyewear and increase the reimbursement rates. Also, the name of the policy was changed from "Visual Aids" to "Prescription Eyewear".

September 27, 2007 - The policy was updated as a result of the 60 month policy review process.

December 13, 2001 - Replaces Policy and Practice Visual Aids dated January 20, 1994.

Board of Directors Approval Date: January 20, 1994