

POLICY NUMBER: POL-44

Summary of Proposed Amendments

Amendments to the policy, Clothing Allowance (POL-44), are proposed to respond to the unique circumstances of workers who have clothing needs resulting from the treatment of a workplace injury. The draft policy expands entitlement to include wear and tear caused by a wider variety of devices or equipment, and increases the maximum allowance to \$1200 annually. A number of amendments are proposed to streamline and enhance the flexibility of the clothing allowance payment process to reflect the needs of individual workers. Additional amendments are proposed to improve the organization and clarity of the policy.

*The proposed amendments are described in the policy document below. New content is **bolded** and content to be deleted is shown with a ~~strike through~~. An unmarked version of the proposed policy can be found at the end of the document.*

Chapter:
CLAIMS

Subject:
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Effective Date:
April 14, 1995

Last Updated:
~~August 21, 2014~~ — **DRAFT -January 24, 2019**

REFERENCE:

Workers Compensation Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. W-7.1, Section 18

DEFINITION:

POLICY:

1. The Workers Compensation Board may provide a clothing allowance to a worker -who **requires clothing to accommodate the treatment of a compensable injury** or has additional wear to ~~his/her~~ **their** clothing due to a compensable injury. **The need for a clothing allowance may be the result of, which involve but is not limited to, the use of devices or equipment such as:**
 - ~~the wearing of~~ a prosthetic device;
 - a cast;
 - ~~the wearing of~~ an orthotic brace;
 - an external fixator; or
 - a wheelchair.
~~use.~~

32. ~~Where the Workers Compensation Board approves entitlement to the clothing allowance, The effective date of the clothing allowance will be the date the worker commences use of the device or equipment. wearing a prosthetic device, orthotic brace, or requires wheelchair use. The Workers Compensation Board will prorate the initial payment from the effective date of the clothing allowance to December 31 of that year.~~

Temporary Allowance

3. **Where the Workers Compensation Board determines that the need for a clothing allowance is temporary, a maximum amount of \$100 per month will be provided to the worker. The allowance may be paid in advance in a lump sum of up to \$1200, based on the anticipated duration of the need.**

Long-term or Permanent Allowance

4. ~~The Workers Compensation Board will pay the clothing allowance in January of each year. This payment covers the twelve month period of the current year.~~ **Where the Workers Compensation Board determines that the need** ~~Once a worker is approved for a clothing allowance is long-term or permanent, the allowance will be renewed~~ **provided in an annually lump sum, to a maximum of \$1200, on the anniversary of the clothing allowance effective date. The annual allowance will continue** ~~-for as long as the Workers Compensation Board determines it is required. due to wearing a prosthetic device, orthotic brace, or wheelchair use.~~

POLICY NUMBER: POL-44

5. ~~The Workers Compensation Board will pay a clothing allowance, to a maximum of \$750 per year, at the following rates:~~

~~Upper limb: \$350
Lower limb: \$400
Wheelchair use: \$750~~

Expenses Not Eligible for Reimbursement

25. The Workers Compensation Board will not reimburse a worker for clothing damaged in an accident or destroyed during removal to attend to an injury.

HISTORY:

August 21, 2014 - The yearly clothing allowance reimbursement was increased from \$225 to \$350 and \$450 to \$750.

April 3, 2007 - The policy was reviewed as a result of the 60 month policy review process. No changes were made to the policy during this review.

December 13, 2001 - Replaces policy on "Clothing Allowance" dated March 14, 1995

Board of Directors Approval Date: March 14, 1995

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 - a prosthetic device;
 - a cast;
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 - an external fixator; or
 - a wheelchair.

 2. The effective date of the clothing allowance will be the date the worker commences use of the device or equipment.
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Temporary Allowance

3. Where the Workers Compensation Board determines that the need for a clothing allowance is temporary, a maximum amount of \$100 per month will be provided to the worker. The allowance may be paid in advance in a lump sum of up to \$1200, based on the anticipated duration of the need.

Long-term or Permanent Allowance

4. Where the Workers Compensation Board determines that the need for a clothing allowance is long-term or permanent, the allowance will be provided in an annual lump sum, to a maximum of \$1200, on the anniversary of the clothing allowance effective date. The annual allowance will continue for as long as the Workers Compensation Board determines it is required.

Expenses Not Eligible for Reimbursement

5. The Workers Compensation Board will not reimburse a worker for clothing damaged in an accident or destroyed during removal to attend to an injury.

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