

Independence Allowance

Under Section 67 of [The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013](#), if your work injury causes a permanent functional impairment (PFI), you may get an independence allowance. This allowance is to help you with the costs of keeping a reasonable degree of independence.

What is permanent functional impairment (PFI)?

An example of a PFI would be the loss of use of a body part. The amount of impairment is defined as a percentage of normal function.

Who may get independence allowance?

If you have a 10% or more PFI, you will be considered for independence allowance. The allowance is based on your PFI rating, and physical need.

Injured workers with a PFI of hearing loss are not eligible for the independence allowance.

Injured workers living in nursing homes, extended care facilities or special-care facilities do not get the allowance, unless their dependent spouse or children continue to care for the family home. In these cases, the allowance may be paid to the dependent spouse or children.

Your income, including other payments from the WCB, does not affect independence allowance.

What does independence allowance help cover?

The independence allowance may help cover:

- Your routine home maintenance (e.g., hiring someone to cut grass, remove snow, house cleaning, etc.);
- Fees your landlord charges you for property maintenance; or
- Taxis or other transportation services (e.g., paratransit).

How is the allowance calculated?

Injured workers with a PFI rating of 40% or more and meet the conditions to get independence allowance receive a maximum of \$2,260 per year. Those with PFI ratings of 10% to 39% and meet the conditions to get independence allowance get an amount based on their PFI.

Independence allowance is paid once each year and continues throughout your lifetime, regardless of age and for as long as you qualify.

Note: The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013 and WCB Policy are default in cases of discrepancies.

For more information, view this policy on our website www.wcbask.com or:
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