

Cost relief

A claim may be eligible for total or partial cost relief of earnings loss benefits or medical costs in the following situations:

Pre-existing conditions or injury following return to work

[WCB policy](#) (POL 03/2021) explains cost relief is applied because of a worker's pre-existing condition or injury following return to work.

A claim may be eligible for cost relief if:

- A work-related injury is attributed solely to a worker's pre-existing condition.
- The worker's non-work-related pre-existing condition is aggravated or accelerated by the work injury and recovery from the work injury is prolonged.
- The worker's prior injury with another employer prolonged or caused a new injury.
- The worker has a new injury during a return-to-work program or during alternate or accommodated employment.
- A secondary injury, disease or condition occurs because of a worker's initial work injury.
- Any other situation as directed by WCB policy. For example:
 - A worker receives benefits during a notice period while unable to participate in health care or an individual vocational plan.
 - Benefits are redirected to a dependent spouse while a worker is incarcerated.

Occupational diseases

WCB policy (POL 05/2014) explains when cost relief is applied because of an occupational disease.

A claim may be eligible for cost relief to cover the high costs of a latent occupational disease if:

- Employment is only partially responsible for the disease.
- The employer no longer reports to the WCB or cannot be confirmed.
- The effects of exposure to a harmful substance were not known at the time of exposure.

Disasters

WCB policy (POL 12/2014) explains when cost relief is applied because of a disaster.

A claim may be eligible for cost relief to cover high claim costs from a disaster if:

- Costs are more than 10 times the maximum wage rate for one claim.
- Costs are more than 20 times the maximum wage rate for two or more claims.

COVID-19

WCB policy explains when cost relief is applied during the COVID-19 crisis for specific situations.

A claim may be eligible for cost relief if:

- A COVID-19 claim is determined by the WCB to have arisen out of and in the course of employment.
- Recovery from an accepted work injury is prolonged due to delays in treatment or vocational rehabilitation caused by limited health-care services available during the COVID-19 situation.

