

Aggravation of the Pre-Existing Condition – Example

When a worker's condition is temporarily worsened because of a work-related injury, this is considered an aggravation of a pre-existing condition.

- For example, a worker has a previous non-work-related arthritic condition affecting both knees. They sustain a work-related left knee sprain resulting in a temporary aggravation of their arthritic condition.

Coverage is provided while the worker recovers from the sprain. The WCB will not provide coverage for any further treatment or restrictions imposed by the arthritic condition.

- For example, a worker has a previous non-work-related degenerative back condition. They sustain a work-related soft-tissue strain to their back which temporarily aggravates the pre-existing back condition.

Surgery was not immediately required to treat the pre-existing back condition, but following the aggravation surgery is now recommended.

Coverage is provided for the effects of the soft-tissue strain for as long as the worker is disabled as a result of the strain, but up to the date of surgery at a maximum. The WCB will not provide coverage while the worker recovers from the non-compensable back surgery.

Acceleration of the Pre-Existing Condition – Example

When a worker's condition is permanently worsened because of a work-related injury, this is considered an acceleration of the pre-existing condition.

- For example, a worker has a history of moderate degenerative disc disease affecting their lower back and they sustain a work-related compression fracture of a vertebra in their lower back. The degenerative disc disease in the area next to the compression fracture advances at an accelerated rate because of the work-related injury.

Coverage is provided for the effects of the compression fracture and the degenerative disc disease in the adjacent area.