

## Cost Relief

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

### Pre-existing conditions or injury following return to work

WCB [Policy 11/2017](#) 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:

- The worker has a non-work-related pre-existing condition and employment conditions increased the risk of the work injury happening.
- 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.
- Any other situation as directed by WCB policy. For example:
  - A worker is absent from medical treatment for good reason.
  - Benefits are redirected to a dependent spouse while a worker is incarcerated.

### Occupational Diseases

WCB [Policy 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.
- If the employer no longer reports to the WCB or cannot be confirmed.
- If the effects of exposure to a harmful substance were not known at the time of exposure.

### Disasters

WCB [Policy 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:

- Cost 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.