

Hearing service fees and fee codes

Effective: January 1, 2019

- The WCB will fund the following hearing services for claims accepted for traumatic and occupational noise induced hearing:
 - [Fee code 200 - full audiological assessment.](#)
 - [Fee code 202 - hearing instruments.](#)
 - [Fee code 205 - repair fees.](#)
 - [Fee code 206 - batteries.](#)
 - [Fee code 213 - fitting & dispensing.](#)
 - [Fee code 214 – per ear service.](#)
 - [Fee code 215 – ear moulds: Behind the ear moulds.](#)
 - [Fee code 216 - mailing fee.](#)
 - [Fee code 217 - custom ear moulds.](#)

The associated fees and business rules for the above fee codes follow.

- Hearing instruments will be funded minus accessories. The following and other accessories should not be issued or authorization to issue requested:
 - dry aid kits
 - drying system
 - sleeve moulds
 - remote controls
 - easy phone auto t-coil
 - battery tester and charger
 - oticon streamer
 - ear wax removal system
 - wax receptor, etc.
- WCB reserves audit privileges and post payment reconciliation where inappropriate billing has occurred.
- Clarification may be obtained from the Health services manager at 306.933.7235 who may consult the executive of the Saskatchewan Hearing Instrument Practitioners regarding the spirit of the negotiation that led to the above fee schedule.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Effective date</u>					
		June 1, 2015	Jan. 1				
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Full audiological assessment	200	\$118.21	\$120.57	\$122.94	\$125.30	\$127.67	\$130.03

- Business rules:
 - To be conducted by WCB accredited audiologist or hearing instrument practitioner.
 - Comprehensive evaluation including history of hearing problems.
 - Otoscopic evaluation.
 - Pure-tone air conduction testing and masking when indicated to include the following frequencies: 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 6000 and 8000Hz.
 - Pure-tone bone conduction testing to include the above-noted frequencies and masking when indicated. Please note: The WCB requires all frequencies, including 3000Hz, for determining an injured worker's degree of permanent impairment.
 - Speech audiometry including speech reception threshold testing, determination of uncomfortable levels, most comfortable levels and speech discrimination testing level.
 - Assessment of the function of the middle ear system or impedance audiometry; and
 - Depending on the results of the impedance testing, referral for additional testing as may be required.
- A detailed written report of the audiological test results, including recommendations regarding appropriate amplification, signed and dated by the individual performing the test.
- May be repeated every *three years* except where worker experiences a sudden onset of tinnitus or sudden unilateral hearing loss after illness in a worker who has bilateral hearing aids.

Service	Fee code	Description	Effective date					
			June 1, 2015	Jan. 1				
				2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hearing instrument	202	Manufacturer's cost not to exceed:	\$900	\$918	\$936	\$954	\$972	\$990
		Plus 10 per cent handling fee and the actual shipping fees						
		Loss and damage not to exceed:	\$300	\$306	\$312	\$318	\$324	\$330
		Plus 10 per cent handling fees and the actual shipping fees						

- Business rules:
 - Fee to include a three-year standardized warranty.
 - Includes the hearing aid but no accessories.* See list of items not funded.
 - Includes directional microphone except in CIC (Completely in the canal) models.
 - Manufacturer's invoice to be attached to the WCB invoice stamped "Not for payment."
 - This fee to include aids for those workers still in the work force who require a product suitable for multi-person discussion and noisy background situations.
 - Where the injured worker chooses an upgraded product, the worker will pay the difference between the aid that was recommended and the aid chosen; notwithstanding the ceiling for fee code 202. The worker will not pay additional fitting/follow up or other fees payable by the WCB.
 - Fee includes where worker has lost a hearing aid, with pre-approval.
 - The WCB will approve replacement aids only where the current aid cannot be adjusted in response to a significant change in hearing, where there are signs of inadequate gain available, improper amplification for hearing loss, improper fit resulting in feedback, where repair is no longer cost effective, with pre-approval.

Service	Fee code	Fee
Repair fee	205	Manufacturer's price plus 10 per cent handling fees and the actual shipping fees

- Business rules
 - Not billable while warranty period in effect.
 - From end of warranty period (end of third year) to end of fourth year post issuance, \$300 may be invoiced to the WCB without pre-authorization.
 - Pre-authorization is required on any aid greater than four years post issuance date.

- Manufacturer's invoice must be included when billing for a repair fee and stamped "Not for payment."
- Fee payable once per transaction with the manufacturer (not the aid).
- Where a receiver has been replaced, no fee is billable during the warranty period of the replacement receiver.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Effective date</u>					
		June 1, 2015	Jan. 1				
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Batteries	206	\$0.75 per cell	\$0.77 per cell	\$0.78 per cell	\$0.80 per cell	\$0.81 per cell	\$0.83 per cell

- Business rules
 - Batteries are provided to injured workers to last until the next service visit without pre-authorization.
 - Where a worker runs out of batteries, more may be issued without pre-authorization, but
 - No service fee is billable to the WCB.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Effective date</u>					
		June 1, 2015	Jan. 1				
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fitting and dispensing	213	\$525	\$535.50	\$546	\$556.50	\$567	\$577.50

- Business rules
 - Selection of appropriate hearing aid device.
 - Ear mould impression.
 - Programming of the hearing aid device.
 - Real Ear Measurements (REM) for fitting verification.
 - Verification of audibility, comfort and tolerance.
 - Speech mapping if available.
 - Quality control checks (electroacoustic checks).

- Appropriate training and counselling regarding usage of hearing aid device.
- Counselling injured worker regarding the realistic expectation of the benefits during and after adjustment period.
- Follow up with the injured worker within the hearing aid manufacturer's noted trial period (follow up visit to include adjustments, counselling, repair and re-programing if necessary).
- *Includes the allotted two service visits within the first year after new aid is issued including labour on repair, cleaning, re-tubing, vacuuming, readjustments and verification.
- Provide all product manuals and warranty information.
- Any warranty work required without additional handling/shipping fees.
- The WCB does not fund extended warranty.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Effective date</u>					
		June 1, 2015	Jan. 1				
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Per ear service	214	\$30	\$30.60	\$31.20	\$31.80	\$32.40	\$33

- Business rules
 - Includes minor in-house repairs, performance checks, reprogramming, cleaning, vacuuming, re-tubing, and adjustments.
 - Fee includes all incidental parts and projects required for regular maintenance of aids including domes, tubes, microphone covers, wind covers, wax guards, filters, microphones and component parts.
 - For all other parts, see repair fee (fee code 205).
 - Worker will be provided a six-month supply of batteries to last until next service visit, billable to the WCB without pre-authorization.
 - Limit of two visits per year without the WCB's pre-authorization.
 - Service fees are billable only after the one-year anniversary of the fitting/dispensing date as the first-year service fees are included in the fitting/dispensing fee.
 - Applicable only if service provided by or supervised by an audiologist or hearing instrument practitioner.
 - Includes labour for all warranty items during warranty period.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Ear moulds: behind the ear models	215	Manufacturer's price plus 10 per cent handling fees and the actual shipping fees

- Business rules
 - This fee applies to moulds for each ear.
 - Maximum of one per ear every two years without pre-authorization.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Mailing fee	216	Not to exceed \$15

- Business rules
 - Billable only for hearing aid mailed or couriered to injured worker with receipt for both the mailing/courier and insurance both attached to the invoice stamped "Not for payment."
 - Only payable if there is an urgent medical need for the repair or if the worker is not in that city on a regular basis for personal needs.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee code</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Custom ear moulds	217	Manufacturer's price plus 10 per cent handling fees and the actual shipping fees

- Business rules
 - May be issued without pre-authorization where domes/tips are not effective and excessive feedback occurs.
 - May be replaced once every two years without pre-authorization, with the WCB billed after the warranty period has expired only.
 - Includes mould impressions.