

Suspension of Benefits

The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has the right to review compensation payments. If the review shows a need, benefits can be increased, decreased, temporarily paused or ended.

As per Suspension of Benefits POL & PRO 10/2021, benefits can be suspended if you do not go to medical appointments, procedures, or do not take part in a vocational rehabilitation program (IVP). You must tell the WCB immediately if you are not able to go to an appointment, treatment or rehabilitation program. If you do not tell us that you were not able to go, all payments given after that date may be considered as overpaid, and will be taken off future payments.

During incarceration, benefits may be redirected to a dependent as per policy POL 10/2016. In these cases, any overpayment of benefits to the worker will not be recovered from these payments.

If a short-term absence was the result of a non-acceptable circumstance* your benefits will be suspended immediately until you go to the appointment, return to medical treatment, or continue vocational rehabilitation. Some examples may include:

- vacation leave
- not willing to attend treatment
- failure to comply or demonstrate active involvement in healthcare or IVP
- failure to participate in the formation of an IVP
- no reason provided

If a short-term absence was the result of an acceptable circumstance* your benefits will generally not be suspended for up to one calendar day per month. Some examples may include:

- personal illness
- urgent personal reasons (e.g., child care, pressing necessities, non-work-related medical appointment, etc.)
- bereavement leave
- severe weather restricting travel

Any further time missed within the same calendar month may result in an immediate suspension of benefits. These days are non-accumulative and will not be carried over from month to month. For longer term absences that are a result of a personal illness or disablement not related to your work injury, you may receive earnings loss benefits for up to four weeks or until you qualify for an alternate source of support, whichever occurs first. This also includes situations involving pregnancy where the pregnancy and conditions related to the pregnancy are the sole reason for interruption or delay in returning to work or the pregnancy has ended (i.e. through childbirth) and non-work-related factors cause a delay in treatment or vocational programming. This payment of benefits is not charged to the employer's cost record.

*Acceptable circumstances are situations, causes or matters that are generally outside of your control.

For further information, contact the operations division:
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