

POLICY NUMBER: POL-73

Chapter:
CLAIMS

Subject:
VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS

Effective Date:
December 13, 2001

Last Update:
February 13, 2013

REFERENCE:

Workers Compensation Act R.S.P.E.I.1988, Cap. W-7.1, Section 18.
Workers Compensation Board Policy, POL-64, Health Care Providers.
Workers Compensation Board Policy, POL-30, Orthoses, Prostheses, And Assistive Devices.

DEFINITION:

In this policy:

“Activities of Daily Living” means activities or tasks that a person does every day to maintain personal independence. Activities of daily living include personal care, mobility in and around the home, communication, and management of personal affairs.

“Impairment” means a medically measurable permanent anatomical loss or disfigurement and includes, amputation, loss of vision, loss of hearing, impaired nerve function, scarring causing disfigurement, joint ankylosis, or joint fusion from surgery.

“Severely injured worker” means a worker who has a severe injury which significantly restricts mobility or function as a result of a work related injury.

POLICY:

1. The Workers Compensation Board will provide modifications to the vehicle of a severely
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POLICY NUMBER: POL-73

injured worker who has sustained an impairment as a result of a compensable work-related accident.

2. The Workers Compensation Board will assess the need for, and the extent of, vehicle modifications to facilitate a return to work and/or allow the worker to perform activities of daily living.
3. A worker's entitlement to vehicle modifications will be determined on an individual basis through a functional assessment provided by a recognized health care provider who is trained to provide such an assessment. Modifications are limited to one vehicle every five years and will be replaced only if the initial modifications cannot be transferred to a new vehicle.
4. The worker is responsible for the day to day maintenance of the vehicle modifications. The Workers Compensation Board may pay for modifications which need to be repaired or replaced over time because of any of the following:
 - normal wear and tear;
 - damage which does not result from a motor vehicle accident;
 - changes in the physical condition of the worker.

The worker must make use of any warranty on vehicle modifications before the Workers Compensation Board will repair or replace any modifications made.

The Workers Compensation Board may refuse to pay for the repair or replacement of the vehicle modification if there is evidence that the worker wilfully damaged or destroyed it.

5. Modifications include the following:
 - wheelchair lift;
 - tie-down for wheelchair;
 - hand controls for vehicle; and
 - other necessary accessories recommended through an assessment completed by the Workers Compensation Board.
6. The Workers Compensation Board will not purchase vehicles.

A worker who has a new transportation need as a result of a compensable work

POLICY NUMBER: POL-73

related accident, and is eligible for vehicle modifications, may be entitled to a one time only allowance of up to \$5,000 toward the cost of a new vehicle if the worker's current vehicle cannot be modified or the vehicle has been modified and is no longer adequate.

HISTORY:

February 13, 2013 - The policy was reviewed as a result of the 60 month policy review process. No substantive changes were made to the policy during this review.

November 29, 2007 - The policy was updated as a result of the 60 month policy review process.

December 13, 2001 - Replaces Policy and Practice "Purchases for Paraplegics and Quadriplegics" dated October 14, 1993.

Board of Directors Approval Date: December 13, 2001