

**Operational  
Policy**

Section

Independent Living and Quality of Life

Subject

**Home Health Care**

## Policy

A worker may be entitled to receive the health care that is necessary, appropriate, and sufficient as a result of a work-related injury or illness at home through a home health care program if:

- the worker's treating health professional specifies at least one professional health care service is needed as a result of a work-related injury or illness, and
- the worker's needs cannot be met on an outpatient basis.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the home health care program services covered and to outline entitlement criteria.

## Guidelines

A home health care program provides health care services to a worker in their home. Each home health care program is tailored to the individual's needs and may include medical treatment, therapy services, rehabilitative services, and palliative or end-of-life care. Home health care service providers may include nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and social workers.

Home health care programs may be provided by public or private health care organizations, depending on the worker's location and specific treatment plan.

## Entitlement

The WSIB will approve entitlement to a home health care program when the following criteria are met:

- the worker is under the clinical supervision of a health professional for treatment of the work-related injury or illness
- the worker's work-related injury or illness is such that the worker can be treated adequately at home with the services available through the home health care program
- the worker's needs cannot be met on an out-patient basis, such as due to the nature of the work-related injury or illness
- the worker is in need of at least one professional health care service, such as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, or social work, and
- the required treatment can be safely provided in the worker's home without major home modifications.

Home making services are not provided as part of a home health care program but may be considered under 17-06-02, Independent Living Allowances as part of the home maintenance allowance. Where a person requires home making services or requires the services of a personal support worker and/or the services of an attendant to carry out their

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activities of daily living, entitlement is considered under 17-06-05, Personal Care Attendants and Allowance.

**Payment**

Home health care program services are paid directly to the home health care provider.

**Application date**

This policy applies to all decisions made on or after TBD, for all accidents.

**Document History**

This document replaces 17-06-06 dated October 12, 2004.

This document was previously published as:  
06-05-03 dated July 1989.

**References**

**Legislative Authority**

*Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*, as amended  
Sections 32, 33

*Workers' Compensation Act, R.S.O. 1990*, as amended  
Section 50

**Minute**

Administrative