

Health Care Advice

ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT

Easy Lift Chairs

This item is primarily used for workers who are severely impaired. Workers are considered severely impaired if their disabilities/impairments are:

- permanent and have been rated for either permanent disability (PD) benefits totaling at least 100%, or non-economic loss (NEL) benefits totaling at least 60%, or
- likely to be permanent in the opinion of a WSIB medical consultant, and are likely to meet one of the criteria above (Operational Policy 17-06-02).

General Description

An easy lift chair looks similar to a recliner with padded upholstery, with the ability to recline and has leg support. The chair base also lifts and tilts to move the worker into a semi-standing position with feet flat on the floor to assist in moving to a standing position. The chair is operated by a remote control.

Guiding Principles

An easy lift chair may be appropriate if a severely impaired worker has significant difficulty moving from sitting to standing due to the work-related injury/disease.

Please note: Easy lift chairs are considered when clinically necessary. Operational Policy does not allow for the purchase of standard recliners.

Relevant Operational Policies

Entitlement to Health Care, 17-01-02
Independent Living Allowance, 17-06-02
Independent Living Devices, 17-06-03

NOTICE: This document is intended to assist WSIB decision-makers in reaching consistent decisions in similar fact situations and to supplement applicable WSIB policies and guidelines as set out in the Operational Policy Manual (OPM). This document is **not a policy** and in the event of a conflict between this document and an OPM policy or guideline, the decision-maker will rely on the latter.

Considerations

What is needed	WSIB considers
Information that identifies difficulty moving from sitting to standing due to work-related injury/disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty moving from sitting to standing may be identified by the worker, the caregiver, or by a health professional.• Clarify why the worker is having difficulty and how this is affecting daily living activities.
Written information from a health professional recommending and providing rationale for an easy lift chair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A written recommendation and rationale is required from a health professional.

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Functional Information and Review of Recommendations

If not already on file, functional information is required to determine if an easy lift chair is necessary, appropriate and sufficient for the worker’s work-related injury/disease.

If a health professional is already involved with the worker’s care, he/she may be able to provide the required information. Alternatively, a referral could be made to a health professional by the WSIB Service Delivery Team to obtain the required information.

The functional information is submitted to the Service Delivery Team for review. This information will:

- clarify the clinical rationale for the easy lift chair, and
- recommend specific features required for the worker’s needs.

Functional information required	WSIB considers
<p>Is there evidence of significant difficulty with the worker’s ability to transfer from sitting to standing?</p> <p>Information may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • range of motion, • strength/endurance, • ability to transfer, • risk for skin breakdown, • balance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information should identify why other chairs within the home are not meeting the worker’s needs. • Need a clinical rationale for why lift chair will benefit the worker.
<p>What simpler and more cost-effective alternative devices were considered and why do they not meet the worker’s needs?</p> <p>Alternative devices may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uplift seats, • sturdy poles, • chair platforms/blocks, • cushions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More cost-effective alternative devices should be evaluated for their potential use. • Education from a health professional regarding modified techniques for transfers or proper sitting postures may eliminate need for devices. • WSIB will consider payment of the most cost-effective device that is necessary, appropriate and sufficient for the work-related injury/disease
<p>Is the worker able to safely and independently (if appropriate) use the easy lift chair?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If assistance is required, ensure that a caregiver is available.
<p>Has a trial of the easy lift chair been completed and has it been determined to be successful?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worker should have tried the easy lift chair (or a similar one) to ensure that it is appropriate, comfortable and meets the worker’s needs. • This typically occurs in the vendor’s showroom.
<p>Does the easy lift chair address a permanent or long-term need?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unclear, clarify long term need for an easy lift chair with treating health professional.

Functional information should include:

- a description of the worker’s current condition, level of function and daily living situation,
- details about the worker’s physical abilities and limitations related to sitting, standing, walking and transfers, and
- how the recommended easy lift chair will enhance performance of daily living activities.

If the available information is not sufficient consult with the health professional who provided the information for clarification.

Maintenance/Repair

The WSIB pays for maintenance, normal inspection, repair and replacement of independent living devices (that cost over \$250) unless the damage is due to misuse or to not following the warranty or operating instructions. Workers must ensure proper maintenance is carried out.

Health Services

August 31, 2007