



Here is a reminder regarding a new medical cannabis policy from Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (“WSIB”) effective on March 1, 2019, [Cannabis for Medical Purposes \(Policy 17-01-10\)](#) (the “Policy”).

Who would be entitled to medical cannabis coverage under the Policy?

A person with a workplace injury or illness may be entitled to medical cannabis coverage under the Policy provided the following criteria are met:

- the person has one of the work-related conditions listed in the Policy;
- the person has previously tried conventional treatments for their condition;
- the person has received a clinical assessment for medical cannabis treatment;
- the benefits of the medical cannabis treatment for the person outweigh the risks;
- the person’s treating healthcare professional has authorized medical cannabis for them; and
- the dose and route of administration that the healthcare professional prescribes aligns to the criteria in the Policy.

What will be covered under the Policy?

- The Policy applies to all purchases of medical cannabis or vapourizers for medical cannabis made on or after the policy takes effect (March 1, 2019), for all accident dates. In addition to the reasonable cost of medical cannabis, where entitlement to medical cannabis is allowed and the person is approved to take it using a vapourizer, WSIB will cover the reasonable cost of the vapourizer.
- Pre-approval from WSIB must be obtained before purchasing medical cannabis or a vapourizer.

Purpose of the Policy

This new Policy is introduced by WSIB to:

- support timely and consistent decisions regarding medical cannabis;
- provide transparency about the circumstances in which entitlement to medical cannabis will be considered for a work-related injury or illness, and
- allow entitlement to medical cannabis where it is safe and proven to have a therapeutic benefit.

WSIB plans to engage an independent third party to conduct a regular review of the scientific and clinical evidence on medical cannabis so that the work-related medical conditions listed in the Policy remain reflective of the evidence for the therapeutic use of medical cannabis in the future. WSIB will also conduct a review of the Policy within two years of the date that the policy takes effect.

For more details of this Policy, please refer to the [Explanatory Note](#).

Please be advised that this does NOT introduce any changes to the law. For the current law regarding cannabis and its implications for workplaces updates, please email info@thehumlawfirm.ca.