

## Helpful tips when filing an Occupational Disease claim

When filing an Occupational Disease claim, there are a number of ways you may assist with your claim:

- Let your doctor know that you will be making a claim with us – your doctor will then complete a medical report on your injury and fax it to us at 204-954-4999 or toll free outside Winnipeg at 1-877-872-3804
- If you are employed and miss time from work, remain in regular contact with your employer and keep a record of any dates and times you miss
- Provide as much information as you can regarding past employment including contact names and addresses

## Once you have filed a claim, remember to:

Keep your Adjudicator up to date regarding:

- the dates and locations of all medical appointments
- any change in your medical or work status.

Keep receipts for all expenses incurred related to your condition:

- Healthcare expenses – medications, treatment or supportive devices prescribed by your treating physician
- Travel expenses – mileage and parking costs.

If your claim is accepted, the WCB may be able to reimburse you for these expenses.



A trusted partner, insuring today and building a safer tomorrow.

**If you're hurt at work, we're here to help.**

### How to Reach Us

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba  
333 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4W3

Email us at  
[wcb@wcb.mb.ca](mailto:wcb@wcb.mb.ca)

For more information, visit  
[www.wcb.mb.ca](http://www.wcb.mb.ca)

or call us at  
**204-954-4321**

or toll free  
**1-855-954-4321**

### Report fraud and non-compliance

Call 204-888-8081 or toll free 1-844-888-8081  
Email [Compliance@wcb.mb.ca](mailto:Compliance@wcb.mb.ca)

SAFE Work is everyone's responsibility.  
Preventing injuries is good for employers and workers. To learn more, go to:

[safemanitoba.com](http://safemanitoba.com)

or call 204-957-SAFE (7233) in Winnipeg  
or 1-855-957-SAFE (7233) outside Winnipeg



# OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES:

## What you need to know about your work-related illness



**If you're hurt at work, we're here to help.**

## What is an Occupational Disease?

Occupational Diseases are diseases that are proven to have a known link to a worker's job.

An Occupational Disease is a disease caused by performing a particular job or occupation. In some industries, Occupational Diseases may be more common due to the working conditions that are associated with that industry.

Occupational Disease claims may include but are not limited to the following:

- hearing loss
- chest/respiratory conditions
- skin conditions
- psychological conditions
- heart conditions
- infectious disease
- cancer

**The WCB has well established procedures in place to thoroughly assess each claim regardless of the complexity.**

## How does the WCB determine if you have an Occupational Disease?

The WCB conducts a thorough investigation when determining whether or not someone has an Occupational Disease. This may include confirming employment, gathering relevant information regarding employment history from current or past employers and co-workers and obtaining relevant medical information from physician(s).

Based on this investigation, the WCB will determine:

- the existence of a disease or condition
- the nature of the disease or condition in question
- the circumstances surrounding the manner in which the disease or condition arose.

The WCB will then determine if the disease is an Occupational Disease by applying the criteria in *The Workers Compensation Act*. People can develop diseases such as cancer, respiratory conditions and hearing loss through work or every day living or a combination of both.

The WCB will pay benefits for these diseases if it is shown that the workplace was the main or dominant cause of the disease.

## What makes Occupational Disease claims unique?

Occupational Disease claims are unique for reasons related to challenges associated with establishing workplace exposure. The WCB has well established procedures in place to thoroughly assess each claim regardless of the complexity. The WCB is capable of determining if you have an Occupational Disease even if:

- the exposure occurred years or decades earlier (and the employer is out of business)
- the worker has a lengthy work history, with possible exposure in many different workplaces
- worksite environmental data is unavailable, incomplete or not representative of the specific exposure reported to the WCB (such as data regarding noise levels or air quality, etc.).

