

This information explains how to ask WCAT to request advice and assistance from a health professional. Find more information on our website: wcat.bc.ca. Or call our team to ask for help: 604-664-7800 or 1-800-663-2782.

Ask WCAT to request advice from a health professional

A medical opinion from someone other than the worker's regular doctor can help find out:

- If there is a medical connection between work and an injury or disease
- If there is a medical connection between a work injury and a condition that developed later
- If the worker was disabled by an injury longer than WorkSafeBC decided
- If the worker's disability or injuries are more permanent than WorkSafeBC decided

A worker, employer or dependant of a deceased worker participating in an appeal can ask the vice chair to arrange for a health professional to give independent assistance or advice. **The worker's medical condition must be an issue in the appeal.**

Submit your request by completing a form on our website: WCAT.BC.CA > APPEAL A DECISION > START AN APPEAL > ASK FOR ADVICE FROM A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Make your request as soon as you know a medical opinion is needed. Getting assistance or advice from a health professional takes time to coordinate and complete. It may delay the decision of the appeal.

After you make a request

The vice chair will decide if advice from a health professional would assist in making the final decision. If they agree to proceed with your request, they will choose a health professional that:

- Is a qualified medical practitioner, registered dentist or registered psychologist

- Has not examined, treated or consulted in treatment of the worker
- Has not acted as a consultant to the employer
- Is independent from WorkSafeBC

You may want to get a report from a medical expert. Learn more on our website:
[WCAT.BC.CA > PREPARE YOUR CASE > COLLECT EVIDENCE > EXPERT EVIDENCE](#)

The appeal is suspended while the health professional reviews and responds to the following information from the vice chair:

- Non-medical facts from the vice chair
- Questions from the vice chair to be answered by the health professional
- Documents from the WorkSafeBC claim file
- Other medical records provided to WCAT
- Audio recordings or photo evidence

The role of the health professional is to assist WCAT. They do not represent the worker or the employer.

Everyone participating in the appeal will get a copy of information sent to the health professional. They will also get a copy of the health professional's report and be able to comment on it.



GET HELP. You can authorize someone to help you explain your side of the appeal, or get free help from an advisor. For more information visit: [WCAT.BC.CA > ASK FOR HELP WITH THE APPEAL PROCESS](#)