

Handout:

## Four case examples using the Government Assistance: Health Resources and Forms Guide

By Janet McKeown MD CCFP DipSportsMed

Article: <http://thischangedmypractice.com/government-assistance-forms>

### Case 1: Persons with a Disability

Claude is a 30-year-old married father of one and part time engineer who suffered a C6 spinal cord injury 2 years ago resulting in quadriplegia and severe impairment of his ADLs. As a permanent resident of BC with a chronic severe disability affecting his ADLs, Claude is eligible to **apply for Persons with a Disability, PWD**, to help with financial assistance and additional health benefits to help support his ADLs. Using the **resource guide, page 1 column 1**, the clinician can follow the **PWD application process**.

The resource guide includes links outlining eligibility, other health benefits Claude may be eligible for and billing codes for completing sections 2 and 3. The PWD application is accessed by Claude, or his advocate, at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, MSDPR, or through his My Self Serve online portal. The list of possible eligible health benefits is extensive for those receiving PWD or Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers, PPMB, and I have found reviewing this list with the patients during their Periodic Health Review to be helpful. It is good to know that Claude works part time, and as long as his income does not exceed the allowance, he can continue to work.

### Case 2: Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers

Mary is a 44-year-old single woman who is experiencing escalating severe anxiety and challenges managing addictions. She has been terminated from 2 jobs in the last 6 months and is now unable to work as a result of her mental health. Upon discussion with Mary, you find that her mental health illness precludes her from any work for the next 1-2 years and she is eligible to **apply for Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers, PPMB**. Using the **resource guide, page 1 column 2** the clinician can follow the **application process for PPMB**.

The resource guide includes links outlining eligibility, other health benefits Mary may be eligible for and billing codes for completing part C. As with the PWD application, the PPMB application is accessed by Mary or her advocate at the MSDPR or through her My Self Serve online portal.

### Case 3: Canada Pension Plan Disability

Lin is a 59-year-old married mother of 4 who has worked in the University finance department for several years and has been diagnosed with end stage CHF and is unable to work. As her condition is severe, prevents her from any employment for a prolonged period and she has contributed to CPP for many years, she is **eligible for CPP-Disability**. Using the **resource guide, page 1 column 3**, the clinician can follow the **application for CPP-D**.

There are no health benefits other than the financial benefits with CPP-D. The resource guide includes links outlining eligibility and billing codes for completing sections 3-9. Provincial benefits such as PWD or PPMB applications can be submitted in addition to CPP-D as a top up.

### Case 4: Additional Federal Resources

Arjun is a 42-year-old male False Creek ferry captain and has just suffered a myocardial infarction and has applied for EI for 3 months. He does not have extended benefits from his work. As he is not able to work during his leave he **requires a Medical Certificate for Employment Insurance**, EI, precluding him from looking for work while on EI. The **resource guide provides a link: page 2 column 3** for this one-page form.

### Additional Provincial Resources

Disability Alliance BC <http://disabilityalliancebc.org>, see the link, page 2 column 1, is a helpful resource for patients like Claude, Mary, Lin and Arjun to better understand the application processes in addition to other services such as help filing income taxes.