

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 get advice from an independent health professional

When WCAT needs more medical information to decide an appeal, it can ask an independent health professional for an opinion. The health professional is not connected to WorkSafeBC or the parties. Their role is to help WCAT.

An independent health professional can help WCAT answer questions like:

- Is the injury or disease related to work?
- Is a later condition related to a work injury?
- Was the worker disabled because of an injury?
- Does the worker have a permanent disability?

A vice chair (the person who decides your appeal) decides whether to get this opinion. However, a worker, an employer or a dependent of a deceased worker can ask the vice chair to do this. To make this request, fill out the form on our website: wcat.bc.ca > [prepare your case](#) > [collect evidence](#) > [ask for advice from a health professional](#)

Before you ask, think about other ways to get evidence for your appeal. You can ask your own doctor to provide a medical opinion. This gives you more control over the process. You can also ask the vice chair to request more medical records.

Learn more on our website: WCAT.BC.CA > [PREPARE YOUR CASE](#) > [COLLECT EVIDENCE](#) > [EXPERT EVIDENCE](#)

If you ask for an independent health professional opinion, expect delays. Getting assistance or advice from a health professional takes time to coordinate and complete.

After you ask

The vice chair will decide whether to get help from an independent health professional. If they ask for an opinion, they will choose a health professional who:

- Has not treated or examined the worker
- Is independent from WorkSafeBC
- Is a qualified medical practitioner, registered dentist or registered psychologist



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Richmond, BC V6V 3B1



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Online
wcat.bc.ca

WCAT will usually send the independent health professional:

- The facts they accept
- The questions they want answered
- The medical documents the health professional should review

Once the opinion is ready, everyone on the appeal will get a copy of what was sent to the health professional. They will also get a copy of the health professional's report and be able to comment on it.

Need help?

Get a representative. If you need help, you can authorize someone to help you. They can be a lawyer, compensation consultant, someone from a union or employers' association, a family member or a friend. Please note that WCAT does not reimburse you for the cost of hiring a representative.

Talk to an adviser. The workers' and employers' advisers offices were created to provide free help to people who disagree with a WorkSafeBC decision. They are independent from WorkSafeBC and are part of the Ministry of Labour.

Workers' Advisers Office
www.gov.bc.ca/workersadvisers
1-800-663-4261 (toll-free in B.C.)

Employers' Advisers Office
www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers
1-800-925-2233 (toll-free in B.C.)

Contact WCAT. WCAT staff can offer support to keep your appeal on track. They are neutral, which means they do not offer legal advice or act as your representative.

You can also find more information about rules and procedures in our manual: [wcat.bc.ca > resources > manual of rules of practice and procedure](http://wcat.bc.ca/resources/manual-of-rules-of-practice-and-procedure)



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