

Your Home Support Rate

www.islandhealth.ca/home-support-rates



What You Need to Know

You are receiving subsidized home support through Island Health Community Health Services. This brochure explains how the amount you pay is calculated, what affects it, and what actions you need to take each year.

Subsidized Home Support

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Eligibility

To qualify for subsidized home support, you must:

- Sign a consent form allowing the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to share your most recent income with the BC Ministry of Health.
- File your income tax return with the CRA every year by April 30.
- Sign an agreement to pay the daily subsidized home support rate.

Cost

- You pay a daily rate for home support based on your income (and your spouse's income, if applicable).
- The daily rate is calculated using the Continuing Care Fees Regulation.
- Rates are reviewed and updated every year.

\$0.00 Daily Rate

You may qualify for a \$0.00 daily rate if you receive one of the following income benefits:

- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction:
 - Persons with Disabilities (PWD)
 - Income Assistance (IA)
- Service Canada:
 - Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Veterans Affairs Canada:
 - War Veterans Allowance (WVA)

To keep your \$0.00 daily rate, you must file your income tax return by April 30 each year.

Actual Daily Cost

If Island Health's cost of daily care is less than your calculated daily rate, you will pay the lower amount.

Example

- Your assessed daily rate: \$50 per day
- Actual cost of care: \$35 per hour (example rate)
- You receive 1 hour of care per day

You pay \$35 for 1 hour of care, not the \$50 daily rate. This ensures you never pay more than the actual cost of care.

Turning 65 Years Old

If you **HAVE** been filing your taxes each year:

- Service Canada is notified when you turn 64.
- You may qualify for Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) at age 65.
- Once you provide Island Health with your GIS eligibility letter from Service Canada, your daily home support rate will be set to \$0.00.

If you **HAVE NOT** been filing your taxes:

- You may not qualify for subsidized home support unless your taxes are filed and income is verified.
- Service Canada may not know you're eligible for the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS), or GIS.
- You may not receive income once your Person with Disabilities (PWD) or Income Assistance (IA) benefits end at age 65.

After filing your taxes and providing proof of GIS eligibility, Island Health will complete a new financial assessment to determine if your rate can be reset to \$0.00.

Important Information

File Your Taxes Every Year

File your taxes by April 30 every year to ensure you get the correct home support rate. If you don't file, you may no longer qualify for subsidized services.

Earned Income Cap

If you or your spouse has earned income (lines: 10100, 10400, 13500, 13700, 13900, 14100, and 14300 on your Notice of Assessment Tax Assessment Summary), your home support rate is capped at \$300 per month until December 31 of each year.

- This is reviewed annually by the Ministry of Health using your Notice of Assessment.
- You will be notified if you no longer qualify.

Annual Rate Changes

The amount you pay for subsidized home support is adjusted each year by the Ministry of Health. The new amount is effective January 1st of the new calendar year.

Once the Ministry of Health has notified Island Health of your new rate, Island Health will notify you and your home support provider by mail.

If another party (e.g., Veterans Affairs Canada, WorkSafeBC, or Indigenous Services Canada) is paying part or all of your home support, it is **your responsibility** to advise them of your new rate.

If paying your rate will cause you or your family serious financial hardship, please speak with your Island Health Community Health Services Case Manager, as you may qualify for a temporary rate reduction.

Non-Taxable Benefits

Non-taxable social assistance payments (e.g., rent assistance from BC Housing, BC Bus Pass program) will not affect your assessed daily rate.

Free Tax Filing Resources

Speak with your Island Health Community Health Services Case Manager for more information about accessing free tax filing resources in your area.