



## Disability Allowance - Allowable Costs

Following are some examples of costs that a Disability Allowance may be paid for. Please note that the cost **must be directly related to the person's disability**.

**Alternative Treatment:** Must be supported by a medical practitioner as being necessary for the person's condition and the treatment provided or supervised by a health practitioner (under The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act - HPCAA).

**Ambulance Fees and Subscriptions:** When a person is required to pay ongoing ambulance fees, as long as these are related to their disability.

**Authorised Consumables:** Can cover the ongoing additional cost of consumable items needed by a person, e.g. hearing aids, vet's fees etc. for guide dogs, continence products (if they are not provided through the District Health Board or the Ministry of Health).

**Clothing:** For additional clothing costs which may arise because of greater frequency of clothes washing, wear and tear resulting from use of a prosthetic aid or wheelchair or the need to have clothes or shoes made -to-measure.

**Counselling:** For counselling fees if the need for counselling is directly related to the person's disability. Transport costs may also be paid.

**Day Care for the Elderly Disabled:** To help meet the costs of an elderly disabled person (usually aged 65 or over) to attend a day care centre, and/or the cost of transport to the centre.

**Gardening, Lawns and Outside Window Cleaning:** Covers the costs for the person's home where the person or another resident in the home is unable to do these tasks themselves.

**Gym and Swimming Pool Fees:** May be paid when the exercise activities are directly related to a person's disability and will have a therapeutic value.

**Medical Alarms:** To cover the costs of medical alarm rental and monitoring if a medical alarm is necessary for normal daily living and without it, the person's life or health would be put at risk, or their disability would be aggravated.

**Medical fees:** to cover the cost of appointments with general practitioners, specialists or hospital fees if the costs are additional and ongoing. This can also include fees for the some other health services for example occupational therapy, physiotherapy, audiology, podiatry or dental services.

**Nicotine Replacement Therapy:** a client's doctor may recommend that a client gives up smoking as part of the treatment/management of a health condition or disability such as a client with cardiovascular disease.

**Pharmaceutical charges:** to cover the costs of regular and ongoing pharmaceutical charges. Note: It is generally only paid to assist with the cost of pharmaceutical products that are subsidised or partially subsidised under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act.

**Power, gas and heating:** for the additional electricity, gas or heating costs that a person has as part of their disability, over and above the normal power consumption of similar-sized households.

**Private Paying Rest-Home Residents:** For any costs in addition to the rest home fee **and** directly related to their disability (if not receiving a Residential Care Subsidy)

**Rental equipment:** for necessary rental equipment when the client has a need for the item or service but can't receive funding through the District Health Board or another state funded agency **and** their life or health would be put at risk, or their disability aggravated if they could not hire the equipment.

**Special foods:** to cover the additional costs of special foods, ie for costs over and above the normal cost of food. Vitamins, supplements, herbal remedies and minerals can also be included when they are recommended as necessary for the management of the condition.

**Telephone:** for telephone costs to a person with a disability only when the ongoing cost of the telephone is directly related to the person's disability.

**Transport - disability:** for additional travel costs that a person has because of their disability. These additional travel costs can be incurred when a person with a disability is carrying out everyday activities. Examples of everyday activities may include (but is not limited to) shopping, vocational services and work.

**Transport - personal health:** to cover the costs of regular travel to a health practitioner for supervision or treatment of the person's disability. This can also include counselling.

**For more information about the Disability Allowance, see our Disability Allowance Fact Sheet, contact you local WINZ Service Centre or Community Link on 0800 559 009 or visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)**