

## TIPS

It may take up to one hour to complete the application forms. Whether applying online or in person you will need the following:

- Your Social Insurance Number
- Your ROE (unless submitted electronically by your employer to Service Canada directly)
- Personal identification – ONLY if applying in person (e.g., driver's licence, passport, birth certificate)
- Your complete bank information (e.g., a voided cheque) ONLY if you would like direct deposit

Be sure to apply as soon as you stop working even if you do not have your ROE, as a delay in filing your claim beyond four weeks after your last day of work may cause a loss of benefits.

If your child requires care or support beyond the time specified in the Medical Certificate, and less than 35 weeks have been paid, your doctor can issue a second Medical Certificate to extend the length of time, up to a total of 35 weeks even if your child's condition is no longer life threatening. You will not have to re-qualify. You remain eligible to receive the PCIC benefit if your child turns 18 during the 52-week window.

The EI office will begin processing your application once ALL your documents are received.

PCIC benefits can be shared between parents, at the same time or separately, up to a maximum of 35 weeks total during the 52-week window.

You can combine PCIC benefits with other types of EI benefits. However, the type of other benefit may make a difference to the length of your claim. Compassionate Care benefits can only be paid for the same child after the 52-week PCIC window has closed and only if you are eligible.

## RESPONSIBILITY

It is your responsibility to notify EI of any changes to your health or income. Failure to do so could result in your file being suspended or you may be required to repay benefit funds.

*NOTE: At the time of printing, the EI PCIC benefit did not have legislation ensuring job protection during the leave as is the case for other EI benefits. Please consult with your social worker or POGO Interlink Nurse for updates regarding this legislation.*

For more information:

- visit [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca), or call the EI Telephone Information Service
- 1-800-206-7218
  - TTY: 1-800-529-3742

*Disclaimer: This document is provided and distributed by the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) to provide basic, accessible information to families. It does not endorse any particular financial strategy or service provider; neither is it intended as financial advice or as a replacement for professional financial advice.*

For more information, please contact your

- Hospital Social Worker or
- POGO Pediatric Interlink Community Cancer Nurse

**Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario**  
480 University Avenue, Suite 1014  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2

Tel: 416-592-1232

Toll-free: 1-855-FOR-POGO (367-7646)

Fax: 416-592-1285

[www.pogo.ca](http://www.pogo.ca)

POGO gratefully acknowledges  
funding support from the  
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

## Employment Insurance (EI): PCIC Benefits

**POGO**  
PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP OF ONTARIO

COLLABORATING FOR KIDS  
WITH CANCER SINCE 1983

### EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI): SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR PARENTS OF CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN (PCIC)

Yes No

Are you eligible?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Have you submitted the  
right information?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------

Do you know your  
responsibilities?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

#### Other brochures in this series:

Employment Insurance (EI): Compassionate Care

Employment Insurance (EI): Sickness Benefits

Short-Term Disability Benefits

Long-Term Disability Benefits



## EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI): BENEFITS FOR PARENTS OF CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN (PCIC)

Employment Insurance (EI) provides special benefits if you have to be away from work to care for or support your critically ill child.

Your child's cancer diagnosis may be life threatening and require you to directly provide or participate in care for your child, or provide psychological and emotional support. If this is the case and you contributed to the EI program while working, you may be able to receive compensation for lost wages through this government-based income program.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR PCIC BENEFITS?

To be eligible, you must show:

- you are the parent of a critically ill child;
- your child is under 18 years of age within a 52-week window of: the medical certificate being issued; or a doctor certifying your child is critically ill, if your claim is made before the certificate is issued;
- that your regular weekly earnings from work have been decreased by more than 40%; and
- that you have contributed into the EI account and have worked a minimum of 600 insurable hours in the past 52 weeks or since your last EI claim.

If you are registered for access to EI special benefits for self-employed people and have waited 12 months from the date of your registration, you may also qualify for this benefit.



## HOW DO I APPLY?

- 1) Notify your employer and provide them with basic documentation from your health care provider indicating that your child is critically ill.
- 2) Request your Record of Employment (ROE) from your employer (indicating your insurable earnings over the last 52 weeks). NOTE: Your employer can also submit your ROE directly to Service Canada electronically.
- 3) Complete a basic application form and a special form for EI PCIC benefits.
- 4) Have your health care provider complete the **Medical Certificate** form, indicating your child is critically ill and requires your care or support for a specified period of time.
- 5) Complete and sign an **Authorization to Release a Medical Certificate** form authorizing your doctor's release of your child's medical information.

The application and required forms can be obtained/completed online ([www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)) or in person at your local Service Canada Centre.

## HOW WILL I BE PAID?

- The basic benefit is 55% of your average insurable earnings up to a weekly maximum.
- Average insurable earnings are calculated on a combination of factors: your pay over the last 26 weeks, the number of weeks you worked in the 26-week period and the rate of unemployment in your region.
- Benefits are paid for a maximum of 35 weeks, during a 52-week PCIC window, based on the specified period of time stated in the Medical Certificate.
- There is a two-week waiting period in which no benefits will be paid.
- Your first payment will usually be received about four weeks after applying.
- Low-income families with children may receive a higher benefit rate up to 80% of average insurable earnings through EI's Family Supplement.
- You can receive Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability benefits without affecting your EI claim including the amount received. However, monies received from other sources may be deducted from your EI cheque.

## NOTES




---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---