

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.

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

You can combine sickness benefits with other types of EI benefits, however, the type of other benefit may make a difference to the length of your claim.

NOTES

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.

For more information:

- visit 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

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Employment Insurance (EI): Sickness Benefits

POGO
PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP OF ONTARIO

COLLABORATING FOR KIDS
WITH CANCER SINCE 1983

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI): SICKNESS BENEFITS

	Yes	No
Are you eligible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you submitted the right information?	<input 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

Short-Term Disability Benefits

Long-Term Disability Benefits

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI): SICKNESS BENEFITS

Employment Insurance (EI) is a government-based wage protection program that provides sickness benefits if you are unable to work because of sickness, injury or quarantine.

Your child's cancer diagnosis may cause you to experience physical, emotional and cognitive symptoms (e.g., changes in mood, appetite, sleep, attention, memory, etc.). Should these symptoms begin to impact your ability to function in your normal roles, you may require a leave from work. If you contributed to the EI program while working, you may be able to receive compensation for lost wages through this program.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR EI SICKNESS BENEFITS?

To be eligible, you must show:

- that you are medically unable to work;
- that your regular weekly earnings from work have been decreased by more than 40%; and
- that you have contributed into the EI program and have worked a minimum of 600 insurable hours in the past 52 weeks or since your last EI claim.



PHOTOGRAPH BY TYNAN STUDIO

HOW DO I APPLY?

- 1) Notify your employer and provide them with basic documentation from your health care provider indicating that you are ill.
- 2) Request your Record of Employment (ROE) from your employer indicating your insurable earnings over the last 52 weeks.
- 3) Submit an EI application online or in person at your Service Canada Centre.
- 4) Have your health care provider complete the **Medical Certificate Form**, indicating your condition and expected date of return to work.

The application and required forms can be obtained/completed online (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 15 weeks, depending on what your doctor indicates on the Medical Certificate Form.
- 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.

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