

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for a Teachers' disability pension, you must be a TPP Member who has completed the earlier of either (i), (ii) or (iii) whichever occurs first:

- (i) two (2) years of pensionable service, **OR**
- (ii) two (2) years of membership in the NB Teacher's Pension Plan, **OR**
- (iii) five (5) years pensionable years services (if you terminated employment prior to July 1/14)

And cease to be employed as a teacher as a result of becoming "disabled".

"Disabled" means, in relation to a Member, suffering from a physical or mental impairment that prevents the Member from engaging in any employment for which the Member is reasonably suited by virtue of the Member's education, training or experience and that can be reasonably expected to last for the remainder of the Member's lifetime.

PROCESS:

The application for a disability pension benefit will be forwarded to the Government of New Brunswick Case Management Team at Medavie Blue Cross for assessment. The Case Management Team assesses claims under a multi-disciplinary approach. In addition to General Practitioners (GP's) and Psychiatrist's, the team includes Registered Nurses, Nutritionists, Social Workers, Dental Technicians, Kinesiologists and Radiology Technicians.

A member of the Case Management Team will review the application, the medical information submitted and assess whether or not the claimant meets the definition of disability as defined under the Pension Plan. If additional information is required to render a decision, Medavie Blue Cross will contact the Attending Physician and/or the claimant (as applicable).

There is no formal appeal process. However, if a claim has been denied and the letter of denial has been sent to the claimant, the claimant can re-apply (it will be treated as a new claim) as follows:

- Use a copy of your original "application" form and write on the top of the form **"Revised application (include the date of this application) – new medical information relevant to the claim for disability pension benefits will be provided"**; and
- Ask the Attending Physician to send the new medical information directly to Medavie Blue Cross on your behalf.

The decision to approve or deny the Disability Pension will be sent in a letter addressed directly to the claimant with a copy sent to Vestcor within seven (7) business days of receipt of all the information required to render a decision.

If the claimant has any questions about their claim he/she can contact the Disability Claims Specialist at Medavie Blue Cross.

NOTE: The claimant is responsible for any fees incurred to complete the forms.

APPLICATION FOR DISABILITY PENSION PROCESS

To avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of this claim, please read these instructions in full.

Claimant:

1. Contact a Member Services Analyst at Vestcor to request the following forms:
 - a. Application for Disability Pension (Employee Statement), and
 - b. Attending Physician's Statement (of Extended Disability)
2. Complete all of the questions and sections on the Application for Disability Pension.
3. **Read the section on *Assignment, Certification and Authorization*, complete your address and telephone number, date and sign the form.**

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

The Claimant must request that their Attending Physician complete the Attending Physician's Statement (of Extended Disability) form.

To avoid any delays, the Claimant should advise the Attending Physician that in addition to completing the form, all recent consultation and clinical notes are to be attached to the Attending Physician's Statement.

The Attending Physician can submit the completed forms directly to Medavie Blue Cross:

Medavie Blue Cross
Case Management Services
644 rue Main Street, PO Box 220,
Moncton, NB E1C 8L3

CONTACT INFORMATION AT MEDAVIE BLUE CROSS

Claim inquiries: Ellen Melanson
Tel: 506 867 4305
Toll free: 1 877-347-5055
Email: ellen.melanson@medavie.bluecross.ca

Application for Disability Pension (Employee Statement) to be mailed to:

Vestcor
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
Tel: 506 453- 2296 (local) or Toll free: 1 800 561-4012