

Questionnaire on Rehabilitation scheme that Social Insurance gives for victims of accidents at work and occupational diseases in Sweden



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Authors and Institutions

- The Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan)

1. General regulation of rehabilitation in the Social Insurance

**Do(es) the Accident Insurance carrier(s) of your country provide this?
Precise the name of the organization(s) responsible for it.**

If not, who is responsible for it?

In Sweden all sick and injured people have the right to the same rehabilitation, regardless if it is an occupational injury or not.

Rehabilitation is a social benefit administered by the Swedish Social Insurance Agency. If a person is injured at work the Social Insurance Agency is responsible to ensure that the need for rehabilitation is clarified as soon as possible and that measures for an effective rehabilitation are carried out. If measures aimed at working life are relevant, the Social Insurance Agency must also draw up a rehabilitation plan.

It is not the Social Insurance Agency that provide the rehabilitation measures, but it is the employer that must carry out the rehabilitation measures needed at the workplace (workplace-oriented rehabilitation measures). The medical rehabilitation is carried out by the health care system.

The Social Insurance Agency is responsible for coordinating the actors who provide rehabilitation measures.

2. What does “Rehabilitation” mean in your country:

Does it involve: health care? Social, vocational, medical measures? Reintegration? Reeducation of people? Other...

The rehabilitation can be either medical, workplace-oriented, labor market-oriented or social. It is the health care system that is responsible for the medical rehabilitation and the employer for the workplace-oriented rehabilitation. If a person is unemployed, the Public Employment Service is responsible for labor market-oriented rehabilitation. The social service at the municipality is responsible for the social rehabilitation.

The purpose of the workplace-oriented rehabilitation is that the person injured at work should be able to keep a job or get a new one. The measures require active participation of the person injured at work, for example through job training and education.

3. Does the term “rehabilitation” refer to specialized centers dedicated to victims of accidents at work and occupational illnesses? Is it shared with the health insurance scheme?

There are no specialized centers for rehabilitation of occupational illnesses in Sweden.

IMPRINT:

The European Forum of Insurance against Accident at Work and Occupational Diseases:
Working Group Communication

Permanent office of the EUROPEAN FORUM:
Maison Européenne de la Protection Sociale | Rue d’Arlon 50 | 1000 Brussels
e-mail: info@europeanforum.org

4. How is it financed? (Within the general contribution for occupational injuries? Special contributions?..)

People injured at work who need to participate in a work-oriented rehabilitation measure for a longer period of time can receive an annuity in the meantime. The annuity is financed by an employer fee which the employer pays in addition to salary.

A part of the employer fee finances the workers' compensation insurance in Sweden.

5. Which cash benefits and benefits in kind are included in the process of rehabilitation?

Anyone who is injured at work and has a temporarily reduced working ability, can receive sickness benefit. During the paid sick leave, medical and workplace-oriented rehabilitation may take place. If the injured person is to participate in work life-oriented rehabilitation, e.g. education or job training, rehabilitation cash benefit must be granted instead. During work life-oriented rehabilitation, a special contribution can also be paid out by the Social Insurance Agency for costs incurred in connection with the rehabilitation.

If the injury leads to a reduced ability to earn income from work for at least one year in the future, an annuity and special allowance can instead be paid during the work-oriented rehabilitation.

Compensation can also be provided for contributions to assistive device that the injured person needs in the rehabilitation.

It is the Social Insurance Agency that administers these benefits.

**6. What do you think is special about rehabilitation in your country?
(e.g. support in returning to work? Home improvements?
Special programs? Case manager? D-Artz as in Germany?...)**

In Sweden, everyone has the right to health care for a small fee. It is the health care system that is responsible for the medical rehabilitation of a person injured at work. In the healthcare system, there are so-called rehabilitation coordinators who support the rehabilitation process and facilitate the return to working life.

The employers in Sweden are responsible for the rehabilitation of their employees. This means i.e. that they must develop a plan for return to work and take the necessary workplace-oriented rehabilitation measures if a person is unable to work due to an injury.

In order to prevent and shorten sick leave the employer is entitled to an allowance (allowance for workplace-oriented rehabilitation support) to engage expert support for the purpose of investigating, planning, initiating, implementing and following up on workplace-oriented measures. The measures should be workplace-oriented in order to prevent sickness benefit cases or make it easier for an employee to remain in work or return to work. The allowance is also a good support for developing a plan for returning to work for an employee who is on sick leave.

For those who are unemployed, it is instead the Public Employment Service which is the authority responsible for labor market-oriented rehabilitation measures.

The Social Insurance Agency's responsibility in the field of rehabilitation is to coordinate the rehabilitation and ensure that the necessary measures are taken by the actors who are responsible. It is also to draw up a rehabilitation plan if work life-oriented rehabilitation is relevant.

In Sweden there is an act on financial coordination of rehabilitation efforts which makes it possible for the Public Employment Service, the Social Insurance Agency, and the healthcare system to cooperate financially in the welfare and rehabilitation area.

7. What are the latest developments in your country in the field of rehabilitation?

There have been changes to the law within sickness benefit which aim to give people greater opportunities to return to the current employer and not have to change jobs.

As far as

The Social Insurance Agency's responsibility in the field of rehabilitation remains unchanged.

8.1. What could be improved in the communication of the provision of rehabilitation measures between the countries?

8.2. How does it work if a worker insured in a foreign country (EU, EWR, Switzerland) has to be rehabilitated in your country? Competent Institution sends DA002 (Declaration of cost coverage). You are the institution of the place of residence or stay. What can you do?

Anyone who has a DA002 issued by another country and lives or resides in Sweden may be entitled to benefits in Sweden for a work injury, rehabilitation compensation in the form of a special allowance and also an allowance for assistive device. ●