

Financial Support for Dystonia Patients

Federal and provincial governments provide income support to Canadians with dystonia in the form of tax credits and saving accounts. To help simplify the process, we have compiled a list of tax credits that may apply to your situation and needs.

Note: You will need to further investigate the criteria. In some cases, such as the Disability Tax Credit, you will need to apply in order to qualify. Please note that tax credits are classified as 'refundable' or 'non-refundable'. Non-refundable credits generally reduce your taxes owing. If a tax credit is identified as non-refundable, you will not get extra money back if you have more tax credits than taxes owing. Be aware that programs and requirements can change. These benefits will also require support from your medical practitioner in order to qualify.

For further details on the various tax credits you may be eligible for, please visit:
www.dystoniacanada.org/financialsupport or scan the QR code below:



1. Federal Government Tax Credits and Benefits:

The **Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** is a non-refundable tax that helps individuals living with a 'severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions' receive credit on their annual personal taxes. You must first meet the requirements and then apply to the federal government in order to claim the DTC on your income tax.

The federal government issues credits for the **Medical Expense Tax Credit**. Visit our website for further details on items that can be claimed and how to file a claim.

The **Canada Pension Plan disability benefit (CPP-D)** is a taxable monthly payment that is available to people, under the age of 65, who have contributed to CPP and who are not able to work regularly at any job because of a disability. The CPP-D benefit is not designed to pay for such things as medications and assistive devices.

The **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)** is a long-term savings plan to help Canadians with disabilities, under the age of 60, and their families save for the future. This savings plan helps parents and others save for the long-term financial security of a disabled person.

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Launched in 2013, the **Family Caregiver Tax Credit** is a non-refundable credit that provides tax relief to those who care for a person who is dependent on the individual because of an impairment in mental or physical functions. The family caregiver amount is not tied to the disability tax credit.

As of January 3rd, 2016, the **Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits** were extended from 6 to up to 26 weeks. These benefits can also be taken within an expanded period of 52 weeks (up from 26 weeks) and can be shared between family members.

2. Private Insurance:

Individuals who are under 65 with private insurance will receive coverage for cervical dystonia, blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm. For questions related to your specific case, you will need to contact your provider to learn more about your coverage options.

3. Provincial Support Programs

Each province or territory in Canada has its own government health care program. For information on health care programs and insurance in your jurisdiction, please visit our website.

For more details and information visit www.dystoniacanada.org/financialsupport or contact us at 1.800.361.8061

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