# Alberta Aids to Daily Living

# Bulletin # 117

## Exceptional oxygen funding due to COVID

### Exceptional oxygen funding due to COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 outbreaks in congregate living facilities, AADL will implement exceptional oxygen funding, effective immediately.

The following exceptions apply only to <u>congregate living facilities and COVID positive clients treated at home</u>.

### New oxygen starts

If an arterial blood gas is unavailable, pulse oximetry completed by a regulated health professional documenting hypoxemia will be accepted. SpO2 must be less than or equal to 89%.

If in-person registered respiratory therapy assessments cannot be conducted (i.e., due to facility access issues), every effort should be made to conduct a phone assessment. The safe use of oxygen and equipment instruction continue to be necessary steps for new oxygen starts.

The procedure to enter a new start on the Alberta Blue Cross online health portal is as follows:

- Enter the start as RH1 auth. Enter a PaO2 value of 20.
- If the registered respiratory therapy assessment cannot be completed within 48 hours, enter the date on which the equipment was given to the client as the assessment date.
- Provide additional information in the comments section including details about facility access, the reason for not obtaining an arterial blood gas, etc.

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## Existing oxygen clients

- Testing (e.g., arterial blood gas, pulmonary function test) is still expected for consideration of ongoing funding.
- If the facility has restricted client mobility out of the facility, please provide qualifying oximetry (SpO2 $\leq$ 89%) from a regulated health professional.
- If a COVID positive oxygen client can't obtain the necessary testing, please submit qualifying oximetry (SpO2 $\leq$ 89%).
- Please apply for RE1 funding on the Alberta Blue Cross online health portal.
  - Provide additional information in the comments section including the reasons for requesting exceptional funding.

Please contact Elizabeth French, Respiratory Program Manager, for more information: Elizabeth.French@gov.ab.ca, fax 780-422-0968 or phone 780-424-0432.

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