

Alberta Aids to Daily Living

Bulletin #139

Clarifications and client education around catheter funding

A recent news story about updates to Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) maximum funding for intermittent catheters contained some incomplete and misleading information. This has caused some AADL clients to become concerned that coverage may be taken away for intermittent catheters.

The following information is meant for authorizers and vendors so they are clear on the changes to intermittent catheter funding, can answer questions and help AADL clients better understand funding for intermittent catheters.

Key points to remember

- There are no cuts to Alberta Aids for Daily Living; in fact, the budget is up by about five per cent more this year over last. Funding for Foley catheters and some catheter supplies was also increased.
 - AADL made a standard adjustment to the maximum it will pay for intermittent catheters, driven by a province wide survey of prices offered through our vendors. This is a regular business process of ensuring benchmark prices are aligned with manufacturers' pricing and product mix.
 - The costs of medical supplies and equipment are reviewed regularly and AADL's maximum prices are set based on manufacturer costs. The program aims to provide an appropriate range of clinical options for Albertans who need the products, while remaining fiscally responsible.
 - In keeping with average prices for intermittent catheters across Alberta and input from manufacturers, AADL revised its price maximum to \$1.40 from \$1.75, with the awareness that there are multiple options for clients at or under the benchmark price.
 - As per AADL policy, vendors are required to offer AADL clients at least one benefit from each category at or below the maximum price listed in that benefit line's approved product list.
 - AADL has not changed the number of catheters for which clients may receive funding. In fact, clients at high risk for urinary tract infections can request funding for up to four catheters per day and in some instances more if clinically indicated.
 - There are several approved intermittent catheter brands that clients can choose from and can work with vendors to find one that works best at the lowest price.
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- AADL clients continue to have the option of selecting any catheter they want. Many high quality catheters are available for less than AADL's current maximum price. If a client chooses a catheter that is more expensive than the maximum price, they are responsible for paying the difference.
- AADL is currently working on adding pre-lubricated catheters to the approved product list for the fall of 2022, as another option for clients.
- Alberta funds catheters for eligible Albertans who require at least one catheter per day, regardless of age or diagnosis. In other Canadian jurisdictions, there is limited funding based on these factors.

Alberta Aids to Daily Living authorizers and vendors are our client's primary source of information about the program and the benefits they receive. As key partners in the AADL program, we hope this information is helpful in assisting any clients who have questions about intermittent catheters in the future.

More information

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