

Alberta Aids to Daily Living

Bulletin #131

Suction catheter shortage

Due to supply chain issues, there is an ongoing provincial shortage of suction catheters that is affecting many Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) clients. Market Drugs, the AADL contract provider for suction catheters, has made a commitment to ensure AADL clients have ongoing access to catheters.

Suction catheters will continue to be provided to meet client need in accordance with AADL policy. However, due to the shortage, the number of catheters clients receive may be less than usual.

Action to be taken by affected clients

Be aware the number of suction catheters received in the foreseeable future will be fewer than in previous months. Market Drugs will inform clients when the shortage has been resolved.

To help manage catheter allotments, Alberta Health Services has developed a set of guidelines for health-care professionals and clients for cleaning and re-using catheters. The guidelines are attached to this bulletin on page two.

More information

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To: AHS Continuing Care
Community Respiratory Care Clients

From: AHS-Respiratory Equipment and Services Program

RE: Provincial Suction Catheter Shortage

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) is aware of the ongoing suction catheter shortage that is affecting many of their funded clients. Market Drugs, the AADL contract provider for suction catheters, has made a commitment to ensuring AADL clients have ongoing access to suction catheters. Due to this shortage, clients may receive fewer suction catheters than usual.

AHS has developed guidelines for health care professionals and clients on how to manage their suction catheter allotments during the shortage. The expectation is that suction catheters will continue to be provided to meet client needs in accordance with AADL policy. If a client is out of suction catheters, please instruct them to contact Market Drugs or their homecare case manager for further direction and support.

Guidelines

1. Flexible Suction Catheter Use

- a. Modified frequency of use
 - i. Use 1 suction catheter per 2 days.
 - ii. Follow cleaning guideline for undamaged catheters that will be re-used.
- b. When to change a suction catheter:
 - i. The suction catheter has been reused for 2 consecutive days; or
 - ii. The suction catheter cannot be cleaned; or
 - iii. The suction catheter is visibly damaged.

2. Flexible Suction Catheter Cleaning

- a. After treatment is complete, suction the catheter with distilled water or normal saline until catheter is free of secretions.
- b. Suction the catheter with air until the interior is dry and free of water droplets.
- c. Wipe exterior with an Isopropyl Alcohol swab or on a clean lint free cloth saturated with Isopropyl Alcohol.
- d. Store clean and dry catheter in clean packaging such as a Ziploc bag.