

Alberta Aids to Daily Living

Bulletin # 119

Exceptional oxygen funding due to COVID-19 fourth wave

Due to the challenges facing outpatient clinics across the province, Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) is implementing exceptional oxygen funding due to COVID-19.

The exceptional criteria for oxygen funding during COVID-19 does not replace current criteria published in the *AADL Respiratory Benefits Program Policy and Procedure Manual*. These are exceptions to policy when COVID-19-related delays are encountered. Clients should obtain the necessary testing to qualify for funding, according to the *Policy and Procedure Manual*, and transition away from the exceptional criteria as soon as appropriate testing is available.

New oxygen starts:

Effective September 8, 2021, the following criteria will be in effect:

Requirements:

1. Qualifying Arterial Blood Gas (ABG), or if an ABG can't be obtained:
 - a. Pulse oximetry signed by a regulated healthcare professional
 - b. At rest:
 - i. Oximetry showing SpO2 must be less than or equal to 89 per cent throughout a three minute monitoring period.
2. In person assessment
 - a. Exception: If there is restricted access to a congregate living facility, a telephone assessment can be conducted.
3. Safety review and instruction on the use of the equipment

Process for entering authorization on the Alberta Blue Cross online health portal:

1. Enter new start as an RH1
 - a. If ABG is unavailable: enter 20 for the PaO2 value
 - b. If ABG is available: enter PaO2 from the ABG report
2. In the comment section, enter "*Exceptional funding request due to 4th COVID-19 wave.*"

September 14, 2021

Reauthorizations for ongoing oxygen funding

Requirements:

1. If testing (ABG and/or PFT) is unavailable:
 - a. Pulse oximetry is required to document the need for oxygen. Oximetry by a regulated healthcare professional, showing SpO2 less than or equal to 89 per cent throughout a three minute monitoring period, is needed.

Please enter this request as an RE1. In the comment section, please put “*Exceptional funding request due to 4th COVID-19 wave.*” If this comment is missing, the authorization will be adjudicated according to current RE1 criteria. Three months of funding will be given.

When test (ABG and/or PFT) results are available, please submit the next authorization type to secure a longer term of funding.

More information

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