

# Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) Bulletin

March 2009

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## Residential Access Modification Program (RAMP)

RAMP provides financial grants to a maximum of \$5,000 for low income Albertans to build ramps, install lifts into homes or make interior modifications to allow better wheelchair access. In most cases, applicants require a wheelchair to qualify for this program.

### What are the income guidelines?

The applicant must have a household income of \$36,900 or less. If applicable, this amount can be increased under these circumstances:

- For a spouse, the amount can be increased by \$9,600 (meaning you would collectively earn \$46,500).
- For each child under 21 years of age still living at home and attending school full-time, the amount can be increased by \$9,600 .
- For each child under 18 years of age still living at home who also has a disability, an additional amount of \$7,131.



The revised allowable modification list and the new application forms for the 2008-2009 benefit year are available from the website at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/ramp/#13> or the RAMP office. Please use the applicable 2008-2009 application form (Homeowner, Landlord, Tenant or Sponsor) as this will allow verification of income through Revenue Canada. Applicants will not have to include their Notice of Assessments with their applications unless they operate a business.

All applicants, their spouses and/or co-applicants who operate a business, including farming or commission sales, need to include their Notice of Assessment(s) for the previous year and the first four pages of their previous year's Personal Income Tax form.

See "RAMP", Next Page . . .

# News & Information

## AADL Reminders to Vendors and Authorizers

### Cost Share Exemption Cards:

**Vendors should not ask clients for their AADL Cost-Share Exemption cards since these are no longer issued. Vendors should not phone AADL benefit clerks for this information.**

All authorizers, vendors and specialty suppliers have access to the AADL Interactive Voice Response and should use this system to check clients' cost share status. Vendors and specialty suppliers can also use the e-business site to check for cost-share status.

**AADL Manuals:** AADL does not provide printed manuals or material for workshops. When registering for a new or refresher workshop, authorizers will be notified of any material that they will need to bring with them. This will be available on the web at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/manual/index.asp>.

**AADL Bulletin and Updates:** Authorizers and vendors should check the AADL website for the bulletin and update package which are normally produced in March, July, October and sometimes December of each year. Minor updates to the manual are made throughout the year, so check back often.

Starting with this issue of the Bulletin, the AADL Manual Update Schedule on the last page will give you notice of when AADL plans to update the website with new policy, and product and vendor information so you know when you should be checking the website.



**Save a tree** — we encourage you to bookmark and use the online manual version rather than a print-out.

### *RAMP (continued from page One)*

#### Priority Applications

Applicants who are using a powered wheelchair authorized by AADL are advised to call the RAMP office for a specific application form as these applications are assessed on a priority basis.

RAMP has revised the Homeowner and Tenant application forms for applicants who have been authorized by AADL for lifts and who require ceiling tracks, who are in the process of being discharged from a medical institution, and/or for palliative patients.

These applications are assessed on a priority basis. The revised applications are in a separate section on the RAMP website at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/ramp/#13>.

#### RAMP Contact Information

Phone: (Edmonton local) 780-427-5760

Toll free: 1-877-427-5760

Email: [RAMP@gov.ab.ca](mailto:RAMP@gov.ab.ca)

Website:

<http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AADL/RAMP/default.asp>

## New Cost-Share Exemption Form (AADL 1859) coming in June 2009

Authorizers should restrict their ordering of the 2008-2009 Cost-Share Exemption forms to a quantity they feel they will use up by the end of June 2009. There is a limit of 100 forms per order.

The new generic Cost-Share Exemption form for use starting in July 2009 will be available in June 2009. Since applicants will only have to apply once unless their family status changes, the new form will not change from year to year. Restrictions on order amounts will be lifted, but authorizers are encouraged not to stockpile the forms.

#### **Please do not call the AADL office to order forms.**

Authorizers are reminded to order forms/envelopes online at:

**[https://secure5.datagroup.ca/acsc/request\\_ext.asp](https://secure5.datagroup.ca/acsc/request_ext.asp)**

If you are unable to order online, fill out the Forms and Publication form in your manual or on the AADL website and fax it to the number on the form.

# News & Information

## Pilot Project Update: Assistive Technology for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A new pilot project is assisting Albertans with hearing loss. This project is a partnership between Alberta Aids for Daily Living (AADL) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society (DHHS).

The project, which runs until October 2009, provides funding towards the purchase of assistive hearing devices to Albertans who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Assistive hearing devices include amplified telephones, TTY's, and signalling systems. It does not include hearing aids. These devices will help people live as independently as possible and allow them to continue to participate in their communities.

### **Who is eligible for this pilot project?**

Albertans of all ages with a documented hearing loss may be eligible to access assistive hearing devices.

### **How can someone receive help through the pilot project?**

To be considered for assistance, a person needs to complete an application form and submit it to DHHS. Application forms may be downloaded from the DHHS website, picked up in person, and mailed or faxed upon request. Once an application is submitted, the applicant will be contacted by DHHS's Equipment

Specialist to discuss appropriate equipment choices based on the individual's needs. All applications and requested equipment choices are reviewed monthly and after the review the applicant will be informed of the review committee's decision.

### **How can I receive more information?**

Contact DHHS for more detailed information.

### **DHHS—Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society**

**www.dhhs.ca**

**E-mail: [equipment@dhhs.ca](mailto:equipment@dhhs.ca)**

**Calgary** 63 Cornell Rd. N.W. Calgary, AB T2L 0L4

**Phone:** 403-284-6200

**TTY:** 403-284-6201

**Fax:** 403-282-7006

**Hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

### **Edmonton**

11342 127th Street

Edmonton, AB T5M 0T8

**Phone:** 780-451-9999

**TTY:** 780-429-1939

**Fax:** 780-429-1920

**Hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

## How to do Internal Transfers of Wheelchairs or Large Equipment



1. Authorizer sends an e-mail to AADL recycle staff, or a fax (which includes your e-mail address) to AADL recycle staff.
2. On this communication, authorizer asks for permission to internally transfer a wheelchair (or other equipment) from client A to client B. These clients must be identified only by their Personal Health Numbers. The communication must provide the description and SERIAL NUMBER of the item which is to be internally transferred.
3. AADL will send the authorizer an e-mail which indicates whether or not the internal transfer has been approved.
4. AADL will update the AADL inventory information attached to the serial number.
5. Once the transfer has been approved, the authorizer completes a 1250 (or 1251 for a wheelchair) for the client who will receive the benefit, **and must add the serial number** of the item being transferred to the authorization form. The form is mailed to AADL.
6. AADL staff match the authorization form to the pre-approved transfer information on the inventory system, and the transfer will be made from the previous user to the new user.

# Medical/Surgical News

## New Medical/Surgical Benchmark Pricing Effective April 1, 2009

AADL's new pricing for medical/surgical benchmark products and equipment are effective April 1, 2009. Please check the AADL website and, if desired, print out the appropriate sections for quick reference.

There have been a few changes in the benchmark processes:

### Breast Prosthesis: Contract and Authorization Changes



Effective April 1, 2009, clients will no longer need to be assessed and authorized for breast prosthesis and can now go directly to an approved AADL specialty supplier for breast prosthesis.

The AADL specialty supplier will assess and determine eligibility for the client.

For a complete specialty supplier list, please go to [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/manual/vendors.asp](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/manual/vendors.asp) where you can access mastectomy vendors by former health region.

AADL has developed a breast prosthesis brochure which is presently available in pdf format only at [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/forms\\_brochures/index.asp](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/forms_brochures/index.asp). When it is printed, it will also be available through [https://secure5.datagroup.ca/acsc/request\\_ext.asp](https://secure5.datagroup.ca/acsc/request_ext.asp)

### Soft Supports: Changes to Prescription Requirement

Effective April 1, 2009, abdominal hernia supports will no longer be a prior approval item.

Authorizers should ensure that required clinical information is provided, attach the Authorization and/or Change Form and attach the physician prescription or the forms will not be approved and will be sent back for clarification. This will delay the benefit to the client and the payment to the vendor.

### Lymphedema Garments

#### New Lymphedema Garment Introduced

A glove to elbow garment has been added to ready-made lymphedema garments.

#### Changes to the Requirement for a Prescription

Effective April 1, 2009, a prescription will not be required for those therapists who provide active assessments and treatments for lymphedema management. For example, a physical therapist at the Cross Cancer's physiotherapy department will no longer need to attach a client prescription to the AADL Authorization or Change form.

However, note that authorizers must ensure that it is clearly indicated on the Authorization or Change form that the therapist authorizing these garments is a lymphedema therapist.

ALL other authorizers will continue to attach the physician prescription to the AADL forms.

### Medical/Surgical Changes to Prior Approval Process for Palliative Clients

#### No Prior Approval for Palliative Registered Nurses



Effective April 1, 2009 prior approvals will no longer be required for palliative clients requiring incontinence supplies; dressing supplies and/or syringes authorized by a palliative Home Care Registered Nurse (RN).

The authorizer must clearly identify themselves as a palliative RN on the authorization and/or change form.

All other RN authorizers will continue to contact AADL's program manager for prior approval for these benefits.

#### Timeframe of Authorizations for Palliative Clients

Authorizers, please be aware all medical-surgical authorizations for palliative clients are for **six months only**.

# Medical/Surgical News

## Ostomy Supplies

### Changes to Prior Approval Process

Effective April 1, 2009 prior approvals will no longer be required for fistulas, esophagectomies, strip paste, or pediatric supplies if authorized by a Registered Entrostomal Nurse (ET RN). All other RN authorizers will continue to contact AADL's program manager for prior approval for the above.

### Changes to Prescription Requirement for M 115 Peristomal Hernia Belt

The prescription for this benefit will no longer be required effective April 1, 2009 for those Registered ET RN's authorizing this benefit. All other authorizers will continue to attach the prescription to the Authorization or Change form.

### Product Changes

**M 078:** Effective April 1, 2009 maximum quantities will be 30 every two months. If existing clients clinically need more than their previously authorized amount of 20 every two months, they should be reassessed and, if warranted, the ET RN authorizer can complete a Change form for additional quantities.

### Pediatric Ostomy Supplies

The quantities of M172 and M173 will be 50 every two months. This benefit has been extended to children up to 36 months of age. If existing clients clinically need more than their previously authorized amount of 40 every two months, they should be reassessed and, if warranted, the ET RN authorizer can complete a change form for additional quantities.

## Catheter Supplies

**New Product:** Effective April 1, 2009, new clients will be eligible for catheter secures, replacing urinary tape (M307). Clients are NOT eligible for both products or combinations. If the authorizer determines the catheter secures will be more effective than urinary tape for an existing client, the authorizer can reassess the client and complete a Change form.

**Product Changes:** For the M370 Urinary Irrigation Tray, best practice guidelines currently indicate that catheter irrigation is contraindicated. Several health regions in the province have changed their best practice to reflect this.

## Continence Supplies (Diapers)

### Discontinuation of Products

Effective April 1, 2009, the following products will no longer be available: M209; M225; M245; M 206; M 211. Existing clients will be able to continue to get these products until they are required to be re-assessed when their authorization has expired.

### Phone Calls

Vendors must access e-business prior to calling AADL's medical-surgical staff regarding expired authorizations for diapers. E-business allows vendors to see their client's authorization on-line and determine what product and quantities have been authorized, the start and expiry date, and the authorizer. If you are having problems accessing e-business, please contact AADL for assistance.



### Medical-Surgical Two Month Maximums

Please remember, vendors can only provide clients with their two month quantity of authorized benefits. Vendors cannot provide clients with additional AADL benefits for future months. If this occurs AADL will take back a credit in accordance with AADL policy. If a client requests products prior to the next two month allotment, the client should be reassessed by their authorizer. If the client declines to be reassessed, they have the option to pay for the additional products.

## General Information Regarding Panus Supports

AADL has received several requests to have Panus supports added to the program to manage clients' symptoms of a large abdomen. At the present time, Panus supports are NOT a benefit of AADL.

Please refer clients to the appropriate resource to assist in managing or reducing their symptoms.

You may also suggest the client explore other funding sources, such as their private insurance.



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## AADL Manual Update Schedule 2009

*Print and post this page for future use.*

*Bookmark and check the AADL website for these upcoming changes at [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/manual/index.asp](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/manual/index.asp)*

EFFECTIVE DATE	MANUAL SECTION AND TITLE	FILE TO BE UPDATED
April 1, 2009	Section B: Bathing Aids & Accessories	Manual B Catalogue Listing
April 1, 2009	Section C: Walking Aids & Accessories	Manual C Catalogue Listing
TBA	Section D: Mastectomy Protheses	Manual D Policies & Procedures
April 1, 2009	Section D: Mastectomy Protheses	Manual D Catalogue Listing
July 1, 2009	Section G: Recyclable Benefits (Bathing/Toileting)	Manual G Policies & Procedures
July 1, 2009	Section G: Recyclable Benefits (Bathing/Toileting)	Manual G Approved Product List
October 1, 2009	Section H: Hearing Aids	Manual H Policies & Procedures (possible)
October 1, 2009	Section H: Hearing Aids	Hearing Aid Vendor List (possible)
April 1, 2009	Section J: Anti-Burnscar Garments	Manual J Catalogue Listing
July 1, 2009	Section K: Recyclable Benefits (Pediatric)	Manual K Policies & Procedures
July 1, 2009	Section K: Recyclable Benefits (Pediatric)	Manual K Approved Product List
July 1, 2009	Section L: Recyclable Benefits (Beds/Lifters)	Manual L Policies & Procedures
July 1, 2009	Section L: Recyclable Benefits (Beds/Lifters)	Manual L Approved Product List
TBA	Section M: Medical/Surgical	Manual M Policies & Procedures
April 1, 2009	Section M: Medical/Surgical	Manual M Catalogue Listing
TBA	Section N: Stockings	Manual N Policies & Procedures
April 1, 2009	Section N: Stockings	Manual N Catalogue Listing
April 1, 2009	Section S: Back & Inguinal Hernia Supports	Manual S Catalogue Listing
TBA	Section T: Graduated Pressure Garments (Custom)	Manual T Policies & Procedures
April 1, 2009	Section T: Graduated Pressure Garments (Custom)	Manual T Catalogue Listing
July 1, 2009	Section V: Wheelchair Accessories	Manual V Policies & Procedures
July 1, 2009	Section V: Wheelchair Accessories	Manual V Approved Product List
July 1, 2009	Section W: Wheelchairs and Mobility Bases	Manual W Policies & Procedures
July 1, 2009	Section W: Wheelchairs and Mobility Bases	Manual W Approved Product List
April 1, 2009	Section X: Seating Benefits	Seating Schedule



## Current AADL Program Manual Updates

**Note:** This is a list of all AADL Program Manual changes since the publication of the October 2008 Bulletin.

SECTION	REMOVE FROM MANUAL	REPLACE IN MANUAL	COMMENTS
General Information	AADL Telephone Listing	AADL Telephone Listing	Updated
General Information	Regional Health Authorities List	Alberta Health Services List	Updated
General Information	n/a	Client Residence and Diagnostic Codes for 1250 and 1251 Forms	New
General Information	Re-order Form	Re-order Form	Updated
General P&Ps	ToC; p 13 to p 20	ToC; GN 6-10 to GN 6-110	New
D	Mastectomy Protheses P&Ps p D-1 to D-3 n/a	Mastectomy Protheses P&Ps p D-1 to D-3 AADL Specialty Suppliers Breast Prosthesis Fitter's Form	Updated New
F	Custom-Made Footwear P&Ps – entire section Shoe Elevations P&Ps – entire section	Custom-Made Footwear P&Ps – entire section Shoe Elevations P&Ps – entire section	Updated Updated
L	Lifts and Transfer Aids Vendor List	Lifts and Transfer Aids Vendor List	Updated
O	Orthotic P&Ps p O-200 to O-230; Schedule A: Prosthetic Benefits	Orthotic P&Ps p O-200 to O-230 Schedule A: Prosthetic Benefits	Updated Updated
P	Prosthetic P&Ps p P-240 to P-270; Schedule A: Prosthetic Benefits	Prosthetic P&Ps p P-240 to P-270; Schedule A: Prosthetic Benefits	Updated Updated
R	Respiratory P&Ps "Prior Approval/Approval for Oxygen Funding" and "Request for Oxygen Funding"; Respiratory Vendor List	Respiratory P&Ps "Request for AADL Oxygen Funding";  Respiratory Vendor List	Replacement  Updated
X	Seating Schedule	Seating Schedule	Updated
Y	Ocular Prosthesis P&Ps Y-1 to Y-3	Ocular Prosthesis P&Ps Y-1 to Y-3	Updated

**Included in the update package is a list of vendor changes** from September 16, 2008 to January 31, 2009. Update your lists with these changes. For the most recent vendor lists, please use the website list.