

RAMP changes coming in July

The Residential Assess Modification Program (RAMP) provides grants of up to \$5,000 for exterior and interior modifications that promote barrier free access into and within a personal, permanent, principle Alberta residence.

Priority is given to palliative individuals (for rental equipment to a maximum of six months and/or \$2,500) and those awaiting discharge from a hospital.



Applications for funding to modify bathrooms to support access, safety and independence are also considered. Eligible applicants, who have not received the maximum available grant of \$5,000 within the past 10 benefit years, may re-apply for additional assistance up to a total maximum of \$5,000.

As the number of Albertans who have disabilities, chronic or terminal illnesses grows, RAMP's mandate will continue to focus on exterior and interior modifications that promote access into and within a person's home. To support this core mandate of promoting accessibility for wheelchair and mobility device users, effective July 1, 2011 the following items will no longer be considered for RAMP grants:

- Kitchen modifications;
- Appliance purchases;
- Laundry room moves;
- Enlarging of a bedroom, living room or dining room;
- Handrails purchase and installation (interior);
- Hinges purchase and installation (swing-away);
- Protective covering for corridors; and/or,
- Protective covering for common areas (corners, edge guards, rails, wainscoting).

These changes will apply to all applications received on and after July 1, 2011.

RAMP eligibility rules regarding annual income and property values still apply. For more information on RAMP visit our website at www.seniors.alberta.ca/aadl/ramp or contact Dennis Spilak, Program Advisor via email at ramp@gov.ab.ca or call 1-877-427-5760.

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Medical/Surgical News

Is there an AADL authorization tip sheet?

Authorizers are encouraged to use the AADL online manual at www.seniors.alberta.ca/aadl/av/manual/ for up-to-date information on eligibility criteria and products.



Although many informal tipsheets are in use, AADL has not produced a medical-surgical benefit tip sheet.

Please refer to AADL's online manual for accurate information when filling out authorization forms.

Helpful e-business hints for vendors

Vendors are encouraged to view clients' authorization status prior to providing products, to prevent claim rejections.

"In suspense" status means the authorization has not been approved due to missing or unclear information. The authorization has been sent back to the authorizer for clarification. "Not approved" status means the information provided on the authorization or change form does not demonstrate that the client meets the eligibility criteria; the authorization is not approved and the form has been sent back to the authorizer.

Until the authorization status is "approved", vendors cannot submit a claim.

The Bulletin is a publication of:

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1-800-232-7215 throughout Alberta
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Save a tree: we encourage you to bookmark and use the online version of the AADL Program Manual.

Medical-Surgical reassessment letters

Authorizations for medical surgical benefits such as ostomy supplies, incontinence products and catheters are generally approved for a two year period.

Three to four months prior to the authorization expiry date, AADL medical-surgical staff review the client's product consumption. If there is regular consumption, the authorization is renewed for another two years.



If there is no consumption or consumption of less than one item per day, a reassessment letter is mailed to the client and the reassessment process is triggered.

When a client contacts you as the authorizer to be reassessed, a phone call to AADL to get a summary of the client's past consumption history may be helpful prior to implementing a full reassessment.

After the reassessment is completed and appropriate clinical strategies are implemented to reduce incontinence issues, the authorizer can adjust quantities and/or products and provide clinical rationale for products to continue. The form is then sent back to AADL. An Authorization Correction and Change form is not required.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, call Ms. Lauran Chittim, AADL Program Manager, Medical-Surgical Supplies at 780-422-4846 or via e-mail at lauran.chittim@gov.ab.ca for assistance.

Medical/Surgical News

AADL Assessment Form for Compression Stockings

In 2005, with the assistance of authorizers, the Canadian Association of Wound Care and the vascular surgeons of Alberta, AADL developed a one-page lower leg assessment form as part of the assessment process for compression stockings.

The Assessment Form for Compression Stockings was designed to provide consistent information from the authorizers to AADL.

To streamline operations, effective August 1, 2011 the AADL Assessment Form for Compression Stockings will be the only form accepted by AADL.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and medical equipment and supplies

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) clients and their dependent children may access medical equipment and supplies from the AISH Program.

AISH clients must have a medically essential need which cannot be met by another program or source, including AADL, and must meet addition eligibility criteria as determined by the AISH generalist.

The AISH program does not provide coverage for items that duplicate, replace or upgrade basic AADL coverage, or provide additional quantities over AADL's maximum. If additional quantities are necessary, clients are encouraged to discuss their needs with their AADL authorizer.

AISH may also provide items, not covered by AADL, at the same rates that AADL pays for similar items. For example, CPAP supplies are paid at the same rate as the equivalent BIPAP supplies. The items provided must be the least cost alternative.

All AISH clients, their co-habiting partners and dependant children are exempt from the 25% AADL cost share fees. If an AISH client has a status of "cost share" on the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) or e-business, please contact AADL Client Services at 780-415-1664 or 780-422-8601.

Medical-Surgical forms - helpful hints

- ✓ Check that your client qualifies for assistance through AADL. Call the appropriate AADL program manager, before completing a 1250 form. Only the program manager can make exceptions to AADL's policies.
- ✓ Check that all appropriate assessment forms are attached to the 1250 or change form.
- ✓ Check the re-assessment date on the change form. This is the date the client has been re-assessed and it was determined that they require a different type of product.
- ✓ Check out the incontinence catalogue list as there have been a few changes as of July 2010; this will help prevent rejected authorizations and rejected claims.



Keeping Current With AADL

You can remain up-to-date with changes to the AADL program or website by subscribing to the AADL e-subscription list.

Go to www.seniors.alberta.ca/AADL/MailingList.asp to subscribe.

The AADL program is constantly changing to meet the needs of its stakeholders.

To keep current with changes to the AADL Program and the AADL Program Manual, over 2,000 individuals have self-subscribed to our automated e-mail list since it was introduced in 2010.

Authorizers, assessors and vendors are all encouraged to subscribe.

The Back Page



AADL Going Digital - Faxing Your Authorizations

AADL is now able to receive Authorizations by Fax. This is a new process for AADL, vendors and authorizers.

To gauge the impact on AADL staff workloads and to allow time to develop, revise and refine the processes, we are phasing in faxing for the benefit areas according to the following schedule. Authorizations for B, C and V benefits are now being faxed to AADL.

Phase-in Schedule

Fax Authorizations to 780-422-0968

(AADL will advise each group when to begin faxing Authorizations)

Group One: have begun faxing authorizations

- Authorizations for Bathing aids & Accessories, Walking Aids & Accessories and Wheelchair Accessories (B, C and V benefits)
- Edmonton and Calgary Community Aids for Independent Living (ECAIL & CCAIL) can fax all authorizations except wheelchairs

Group Two:

Ostomy (M)

Group Three:

Wheelchairs and Large Equipment (W,G,K,L)

Group Four:

Medical/Surgical (M) Rural

Group Five:

Medical Surgical (M) Urban

We will advise each group via the AADL automated e-mail (see page 3) when we are ready to handle an additional number of faxes. Please wait for this advisory before you begin to fax Authorizations for a specific benefit.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this initial stage.

Faxing Guidelines and Helpful Hints

Fax Authorizations to 780-422-0968

Basic Information

- Fax the white copy
- Print the information clearly
- If using a label for client information, please use an 11 pt font
- Only the front page is required, not the back page
- No need to resize, our fax machine handles 8 1/2" by 14"
- During this start-up phase, please fax a maximum of four Authorizations at a time. Smaller batches enable more efficient and accurate processing by AADL staff.
- **Do not** follow up with a mailed paper copy
- Mail the Vendor copy to the Vendor
- Keep a hard copy on the client file
- Keep the AADL copy as the file copy if that is the most legible one

Fax Machine Information

- The AADL fax machine has two lines; if the first line is busy our machines automatically switch to the second line.
- If you consistently get a busy signal, check your fax machine to see if you have the option to make use of memory or auto-redial. Some fax machines will ring busy if the sender's fax line is busy.
- If possible, please use the option to include sender information in the fax header. An organization name and number is helpful if there is a transmission error and we need to request a resend.

Additional Information

- Authorizations for Palliative Clients are identified as high priority as they are received and are processed immediately
- Quantity and Frequency Review (QFR) forms and documents are faxed to the QFR fax line 780-644-1521
- Other dedicated fax lines remain as is:
 - RAMP 780-644-8085
 - Respiratory 780-638-3254

If you have any questions, difficulties or concerns call 780-427-0731.