

The

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

Newsletter

July 2014
Revised

Important Changes to Alberta Aids to Daily Living Benefit Areas

Mobility and Large Equipment

Changes to the Mobility and Large Equipment Replacement Frequency Quantity and Frequency Review (QFR) process

Effective July 1, 2014 Authorizers no longer have to fill out a quantity and frequency request to replace any pediatric mobility or large equipment due to growth one size or greater for pediatric clients. This includes walkers, standers, commodes, sitters and bathing systems. Please indicate that the client has grown in section 5 of the 1250 form.

QFR Helpful Hints for Authorizers

If your client needs equipment replaced early – that is before they are eligible – please keep in mind that AADL should be a last resort. Authorizers should try to access community recycle pools or alternate funding sources before using the QFR process for early replacement.

- ◆ The QFR process cannot be used to replace damaged equipment. If equipment is worn out due to normal wear and tear and requires replacement, please indicate on the QFR form whether or not the vendor has been approached to repair it under warranty.
- ◆ If a client's equipment is close to the anniversary date for replacement, utilize community recycle pools first before submitting a QFR. Indicate on the QFR that the community recycle pools were accessed and did not meet the need. This will help speed up the approval process since it will be clear that all options were accessed before approaching AADL.
- ◆ Please indicate on the QFR that other funding sources have been exhausted and the client cannot afford to pay for the replacement costs on the requested benefit on the QFR form.
- ◆ Ensure that all necessary forms are submitted along with the QFR, for example, the adult tilt-in-space request form or the bath-lift assessment form.

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Mobility and Equipment

New Products on the Approved Products List (APL)

New equipment has been added to the Alberta Aids to Daily Living Approved Products list for mobility and large equipment (see chart below). Please review the weight limits and other specifications of this new equipment prior to trialling it with your clients.

New item on APL	Features
Catalyst 4	Heavy Duty Packages available on Catalyst at \$865.00 - takes weight up to 350lbs and has an adjustable axle plate
Exigo	Seat-to-floor-height adjusted by wheel configuration and has a weight limit 309lbs Max
Voya Plus	HD2 packages add on (Voya- Plus = \$992) to increase weight capacity.
Tsunami	HD package available on this rigid adult chair to increase it to 350lbs.
HTS (Rifton)	Pediatric shower commode with adjustability.
Ranger	Power chair with 750lbs weight capacity
Myon Active	No charge HD package available for this chair for 350lbs clients.

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We appreciate your feedback:
Let us know what you would like us to address in
The Newsletter.

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QFR Helpful Hints for Authorizers (*continued*)

- ◆ If more information needs to be submitted after receiving a denied QFR, fax the additional information along with the original QFR back to the QFR Coordinator via the QFR fax line.
- ◆ For manual wheelchairs, a QFR is not required if the wheelchair is older than five years. If a client has had a wheelchair for less than five years and the wheelchair is older than five years (because the client received a recycled wheelchair), a QFR is not required. However, the Authorizer must enter clinical justification in section 5 of the 1251 form, indicating why a new wheelchair is being requested. AADL does not require wheelchairs more than five years old to be returned to a vendor.

Mobility and Equipment

Manual Wheelchair Specification Sheets

It is the Authorizer's responsibility to understand and justify ordering all requested features on a manual wheelchair specification sheet. The authorizer should not rely on a vendor to fill out a specification sheet. The authorizer is accountable to AADL for all equipment authorizations and must understand all features that are requested.

Power Mobility

The new power mobility application has been revised. Please go online to print the new power application form and power tilt form, if applicable. The power application process is the same as outlined in Bulletin #8.

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/AADL-forms-docs.html>

Changes to Walkers

The benchmark price for a four wheel walker (C225) has increased to \$430.00. There has also been a new catalogue number added for two-wheel walkers – C220. Please do not submit a request for a two wheel walker using the C061 code effective immediately.

Slow Down Brakes

Effective July 1, 2014, clients no longer have to wait six months to get slow down brakes added to new and existing walkers. There is no prior approval for this benefit; however, the Authorizer must include clinical justification on section 3 of the 1250 form. The quantity limit for slow down brakes is one in a four year period.

Updated Manual Wheelchair Specification Sheets

AADL will be posting updated specification sheets for manual wheelchairs. Please make note of any changes on the specification sheets. Changes include removal of options previously covered by AADL, for example, cost of adjustable tension back and other non-standard backs will be the client's financial responsibility unless it is a "no charge" option. AADL may make changes to the specification sheets after July 1, 2014. Any changes will be communicated via an email update.

Save a tree: we encourage you to bookmark and use the online version of the AADL Program Manual at www.health.alberta.ca/services/AADL-program-manual.html.

Wheelchair Accessories

- ◆ The Wheelchair Accessories Approved Product List (V APL) has been reformatted. Products are now grouped together by type and manufacturer for ease of searching.
- ◆ Adjustable tension backrests are no longer listed on the Wheelchair Accessories Approved Product List (V APL). Adjustable tension backrest can be ordered as part of the wheelchair order.
- ◆ Early replacement catalogue numbers have been added for wheelchair cushions. A client may be authorized for an early replacement cushion if there is a demonstrated clinical need that meets the eligibility criteria listed in the V APL.

There are three new catalogue numbers:

- ◆ V551: Adult Replacement Cushion – Size Change
- ◆ V551: Adult Replacement Cushion – Skin Integrity Issue
- ◆ V550: Pediatric Replacement Cushion – Growth
- ◆ Standard sized wheelchair cushions over \$667 are now considered an upgrade. The upgrade cost is listed in the APL. Cushions of all types and sizes are available without an upgrade. Clients do not need to upgrade to receive a cushion to meet their basic needs.
- ◆ V103 – Custom Size Cushion has been deleted and replaced with V529. V529 is an "option" catalogue number. This means it is combined with a standard cushion catalogue number for any of the following reasons:
 - ◆ Heavy duty: Must be at least 350 lb weight capacity
 - ◆ Extra-large: Must be at least 21" in width or depth
 - ◆ Custom sizes: Must be at least 2" difference from size listed in APL.
 - ◆ Custom shape configuration from manufacturer (ie: leg length discrepancy)

For example: Custom sized High Profile ROHO =
\$615.48 (\$669 - 8%AADL Discount)
V515 (\$541.88) + V529 (\$73.60) = \$615.48

News

Changes to Medical Surgical Benefits

Authorizer Criteria

Policies and procedures to become an Authorizer for burn garments have been updated.

AADL uses competency based criteria for determining an applicant's eligibility to become an authorizer of these benefits. Assessment and treatment in these areas is not restricted by scope of practice; however, additional training has been added to the authorizer criteria to ensure competency.

Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Registered Nurses require additional training in the assessment, treatment and functional implications of hypertrophic scar to become an authorizer of burn garments.

Refer to Manual J Burn Garments for more information.

Changes to the Medical Surgical Policy and Procedures

- ◆ Reformatted
 - ◆ Definitions added and criteria expanded for clarification purposes
 - ◆ Nurse Practitioner privileges added.
- Refer to Manual M - Medical Surgical Benefits for further details.

Changes to the Approved Product Lists

The Approved Product Lists (APL's) for J, M, N and T benefits has been updated to a new format. Price changes are highlighted in yellow on the APL.

Highlights of the changes include:

- ◆ Burn Garments (J):
 - ◆ The sternal strap is a new benefit available under burn garments.
 - ◆ Some benefits have been combined under a single benefit number – e.g., stockings now include the toe section.
- ◆ Approved Product List:
 - ◆ The two APLs have been combined into a single APL.
 - ◆ Clinical rationale requirements are highlighted to guide documentation.
- ◆ Compression Garments (N& T):
 - ◆ The list of quality standards and manufacturers has been expanded.

Question and Answer Sessions

AADL will host the following Q&A sessions:

Eligible Participants	Date	Time
Mobility and Wheelchair Accessories Authorizers and Vendors	Monday July 7, 2014	1:30pm to 2:30 pm
Hearing Aids Specialty Suppliers	Tuesday, July 8, 2014	10:00 am to 11:00 am
QFR Changes to Pediatric Equipment Authorizers	Thursday July, 10, 2014	10:00 am to 11:00 am
Incontinence Supplies Authorizers and Vendors	Wednesday July 16, 2014	9:00 am to 10:00 am
Burn Garments Authorizers and Vendors	Thursday August 7, 2014	11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Enrollment is restricted to 40 participants, on a first-come, first-served basis. **If you wish to attend, please reply to terri.gaunt@gov.ab.ca with the session(s) you wish to attend, and your authorizer, specialty supplier or vendor number.** You will be sent the teleconference ID# and password approximately one week prior to the session.