

## Information for AADL clients impacted by flooding in southern Alberta

The recent severe flooding in our province has touched the lives of many people and communities. Any Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) clients who need to replace lost or destroyed medical equipment or supplies due to the flooding can contact any AADL authorizer or specialty assessor (e.g. hearing aids) in the area they are currently residing, and let them know that they lost equipment/supplies. These authorizers/vendors would assess the need(s), and contact the appropriate AADL benefit manager, with whom they already have a relationship. Any request for replacement equipment or supplies will be expedited by AADL. These evacuees can get information about vendors/authorizers, or direct any other inquiry to the AADL mainline directly, toll free at 310 0000 then pressing 780-644-3841. Additional information can be found at the AADL website at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/aids-to-daily-living.html>

## Respiratory benefits are cost-share exempt effective July 1, 2013

In July 2012, the transfer of the Respiratory Benefits Program from AADL to Alberta Health Services began, with the goal to improve client health outcomes and enhance delivery of respiratory and associated health services. To further facilitate the eventual full transition of the Respiratory Benefits Program, changes are being made to the AADL cost-share requirement for Respiratory Benefits.

**Effective July 1, 2013**, AADL clients will be exempt from paying the 25 percent cost-share for respiratory benefits. Respiratory benefits include: home oxygen therapy, humidity therapy, suction therapy, tracheostomy tubes, home ventilators, home bi-level positive airway pressure devices and resuscitator/bagging units for tracheostomy patients.

The collection of **cost-share will still apply to other AADL benefits** that may be accessed by a client requiring respiratory benefits. For example, if a cost-sharing client requires oxygen therapy and a walker, the client will now be cost-share exempt for the oxygen therapy, but will still be responsible to cost-share for the walker.

Any questions about this change should be directed to Michelle Robertson at 780-342-8768 or toll-free at 1-855-346-8767.

AADL appreciates your co-operation in communicating this information to anyone who may be affected by this change.

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# Mobility and Equipment

## Authorizations for tilt-in-space wheelchairs

For all tilt in space wheelchair authorizations, authorizers are required to send in the **Adult Tilt-in-Space Request Form** as well as additional clinical justification.

If the reason for the request is a change in the client's condition please provide detail about the change in the condition that justifies the need for a tilt in space wheelchair.

This is especially important if it is a Quantity and Frequency Request due to the fact the client is over quantity. In this case, the authorizer must clearly provide rationale as to why the client's current chair no longer meets the client's needs. This includes providing information about any alterations/adjustments that have been made to attempt to make the client's current mobility base work.



## Changes to the Mobility and Large Equipment Approved Product Listing (APL)

Please visit AADL's website to view the new APLs for Mobility and Large Equipment effective July 1, 2013. These APLs have been updated to include product additions, changes to current products such as model replacements and price increases for some products on the APL.

Refer to the Approved Product List for Mobility and Large Equipment (for Manuals G, K, L and W) for all changes in products. All changes to the APL from the 2012 approved product list will be highlighted in yellow.

Please note that AADL has added a maximum upgrade charge of \$869.70 for the Waverly Glenn or BHM (L304) patient lifters.

Also to obtain an Arjo Maxi-Lite (L308) lift, clients will have to pay an upgrade charge of \$151.80. This is to align the price of the Arjo-Lite with the other lifts on the program such as the Sunrise Advance E that are used for the same function.

## The Newsletter is a publication of:

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## We appreciate your feedback:

Let us know what you would like us to address in The Newsletter.

Contact:  
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## Authorizations for bath lifts

When authorizing for AADL benefits the authorization needs to be based on your client's clinically-assessed basic need. For example, bathing aids are provided to meet the basic need for hygiene and therefore authorizers requesting bath lifts for a client must ensure there is a demonstrated clinical need related to the ability to transfer into a tub/shower for the purposes of hygiene.

Stationary bathing aids such as the transfer tub bench or tub transfer grab bar are considered basic first choice. If for some reason, this equipment does not meet the client's basic hygiene needs, additional information should be indicated on the 1250 form.

A diagnosis code, although helpful, is only part of the picture. To facilitate the approval process, clinical rationale must be clearly documented under Section 5 on the 1250 form to inform AADL of why your client requires the equipment.

Please keep in mind that requests submitted for reasons of convenience or lifestyle are not approved.

# Mobility and Equipment

## Clarification about ordering slow-down brakes on walkers

Since slow-down brakes (Catalogue number C066) were added to the program on April 1 2013, there has been some confusion about client eligibility criteria.

Slow-down brakes provided under C066 cover the modification of a four-wheeled walker that has been owned by the client for six months or more. The client must have a clinically documented **change** in condition which now requires the long term use of slow down brakes. Rather than purchasing a new walker with slow down brakes or a two wheeled walker to accommodate the change, the slow-down brake modification is offered as a way for the client to keep their current walker by modifying it to meet their current need.

Authorizers must not use the separate code C066 for slow down brakes on new walkers. AADL will provide funding for new walkers which include features such as seats, handles and brakes under C061, C063 or C064.

## Mailing in claim rejections /adjustments

Effective July 1, 2013 all claim/form rejections/adjustments will need to be mailed to AADL instead of faxing in the claims. This applies to all claims.

AADL is making this change to streamline and align processes and improve program efficiency and the processing of claims. Faxed copies of claims will no longer be accepted.

## Please see the AADL website to view the following updated program manuals

- Wheelchair Accessories and Cushions
- Ocular Prosthesis
- Respiratory
- Walking Aids and Accessories

AADL Benefit Therapeutic Shoes is being transferred from Kyle Duplessis to Lauran Chittim effective July 1, 2013.

**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](http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/AADL-program-manual.html).

## Wheelchair accessories update

The Wheelchair Accessories Approved Product List (APL) has been revised and updated effective July 1, 2013 and is available at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AADL-Manual-V-Products.pdf>.

The significant changes include:

- Revision of the APL format which is more concise and no longer contains manufacturer-specific product information.
- Grouping of equipment according to functional purpose, type or outcome, rather than according to manufacturer.
- Addition of a list of the AADL manufacturer discounts. This enables vendors and authorizers to easily determine the pricing for custom sizes or for generic catalogue numbers (i.e., V101 Cushion Replacement Cover – Incontinence or Regular).
- Addition of a list of recently terminated catalogue numbers.
- Indication with each catalogue number if the catalogue number is "New" or if there has been a change in price, "\$".
- Updating of prices to reflect new manufacturer retail prices minus the AADL discounts.
- Elimination of an upgrade for single and dual value ROHO.

## Authorizers and vendors - keep AADL up-to-date

If you have any changes to your employment or contact information, AADL would like to know.

Authorizers should contact Vicki Tonowski, Administrative Coordinator, at [vicki.tonowski@gov.ab.ca](mailto:vicki.tonowski@gov.ab.ca) or 780-415-2393.

Vendors should contact Debbie Sykora, Contract Administrative Coordinator, at [debbie.sykora@gov.ab.ca](mailto:debbie.sykora@gov.ab.ca) or 780-422-5525.

It is important to keep your contact information current with AADL. Often AADL sends out correspondence regarding a client's benefits or eligibility. If we do not have the correct contact information for you, this could result in a delay for the client to receive his/her benefits.

If you are an authorizer and we do not have your current information your authorizer number may be deactivated.