

Update to AADL Wheelchair Policy and Procedures

The AADL Wheelchair Manual has been updated. To provide more information this policy has now been separated into two manuals: AADL Manual Wheelchair Policy and Procedure (**WM**) and AADL Power Wheelchair Policy and Procedures (**WP**). **Changes to policy have been highlighted here with additional information provided to assist clients, authorizers and vendors. A Q&A teleconference will be held on Tuesday April 26, 2016 from 2 pm to 3 pm for further questions. Please contact Andrea Waywanko at andrea.waywanko@gov.ab.ca to register.**

AADL Manual Wheelchair (WM) Policy and Procedure Highlights:

- ◆ Policy has been updated to reflect the change to the recycle program for wheelchairs more than 5 years old that now have to be returned to an AADL Recycle Vendor when the client no longer needs it.
- ◆ The process to return wheelchairs older than 5 years old will be no different than returning any other wheelchair that is under 5 years old regardless of whether AADL is going to surplus or recycle it. The process is outlined below.

Process to Return AADL Recycle Wheelchairs:

- ◆ **The client** (or family/facility on their behalf) must return any wheelchair that is no longer needed by the client **regardless of the age of the wheelchair** to an AADL Recycle Vendor.
- ◆ **The recycle vendor** may provide pick up service when the client is unable to drop it off at the vendor site.
- ◆ If the wheelchair is determined to be surplus by AADL, **AADL** would then arrange for Surplus Alberta to pick up the equipment from the recycle vendor(s) and take the equipment to the Surplus Sales location in Edmonton or Calgary.
- ◆ **Clients/Authorizers/Facilities** may go to Surplus Alberta to find used wheelchairs surplussed from the AADL program (as they become available) and purchase them at low costs. Refer to the Service Alberta Surplus Sales website at: <http://surplus.gov.ab.ca/>

AADL Power Wheelchair (WP) Policy and Procedure Highlights:

- ◆ AADL funded Power Wheelchair Specification Sheets will now be provided on the AADL website and include available options and pricing funded by AADL. Every effort is made to identify all features a client may opt to pay for. It is anticipated these will be posted by April 1, 2016.
- ◆ Clients with a power wheelchair can request to upgrade a back-up wheelchair to a Category B wheelchair or a Category C if they live alone and are unable to manage a Category B wheelchair. Refer to the Manual under Policy W-09: Definitions for a description of these categories.

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- ◆ Eligibility criteria now stipulates that requesting a power wheelchair for transportation on highways and/or roadways is prohibited as it is illegal. Clients are expected to use vehicles to transport their power wheelchair over longer distances. It will be important to ensure clients understand this up front.
- ◆ All power wheelchair assessments must include a **power wheelchair trial** consisting of two wheelchairs with the same drive configuration from two separate manufacturers. E.g. two rear wheel drive power wheelchairs. This practice ensures the client has choice and assists AADL in determining appropriate substitutes.
- ◆ A List of Standard Defaults for power wheelchairs can now be found on the AADL website at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/AADL-forms-docs.html>

Tip for Manual Wheelchair Authorizers:

There are situations when an adult client may be able to sit upright in a standard manual wheelchair and yet are at high risk for declining rapidly within a year and end up needing a Tilt-in-Space Wheelchair. Because these clients do not meet the criteria for a tilt-in-space, a standard wheelchair is authorized which then has to be replaced with a tilt-in-space within the year. This results in equipment delays for the client, additional administrative processes, and inefficient use of resources.

If you have a client who you suspect will need a tilt-in-space within the year due to a rapidly declining chronic condition and it has been determined that a tilt-in-space will meet the client's current needs, please authorize a tilt-in-space at the onset. Clinical rationale should be added to the AADL Manual Tilt-in-Space Form to explain that you are authorizing the tilt-in-space feature in light of the client's prognosis.