

Alberta Aids to Daily Living

Bulletin #157

Alberta wildfires: Emergency renewal of oxygen and BPAP funding

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) will extend oxygen and bi-level positive airway pressure (BPAP) funding, on an exceptional basis, for clients who cannot get required testing done in time because of a wildfire evacuation.

The exception applies to clients with an authorization expiring in 30 days or less, whose clinical tests were cancelled or delayed because of a wildfire evacuation. AADL will extend funding by three months to allow time to complete the required tests.

Clients in this situation are encouraged to contact their vendor immediately. Vendors can follow the process below to request a funding extension.

Alberta Aids to Daily Living will continue to monitor the situation and update processes as necessary to ensure clients continue to receive access to benefits.

Exceptional funding process

For oxygen:

- Enter an RE1 funding request in the Alberta Blue Cross online health portal.
- In the comment section, enter "Wildfire Evacuation."
 - If this notation is missing, funding may not be approved.
- If an in-person assessment is not possible, a phone assessment will be accepted. Use the date of the phone assessment as the "respiratory assessment date."
- For SpO2, enter "50."
- For oximetry test date, enter the phone assessment date.

Specialty assessors should arrange for any required testing for the next authorization step as soon as possible. For example, if a client currently has RH1 funding and is applying for the exceptional RE1 funding, the specialty assessor should apply for RH4 funding next.

Similarly, if a client currently has RH4 funding, the next funding step after the exceptional RE1 funding should be RH6 (new). Do not start the funding cycle from the beginning.

For BPAP:

- Apply for short-term funding (SST, NST or PST).
 - Please indicate the request is due to "Wildfire Evacuation."
 - Short-term funding is provided for three months.

More information

Clients can find contact information for their vendor on the AADL vendor list:
<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/aadl/aadl-vendors-respiratory.pdf>

Vendors can contact Alberta Blue Cross directly for more information:

Alberta Blue Cross Provider Support

T: 1-888-828-8738

E: healthservicesAADLinquiries@ab.bluecross.ca