

# Alberta Aids to Daily Living Bulletin

# #163

## Policy update: Amplification benefits

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) has updated [AADL Policy Manual Section H – Amplification Benefits](#) to clarify specialty assessor qualification requirements, equipment trial policies and procedures, the use of the validation certificate and processes for returning equipment to vendors.

AADL is also changing the application process for new amplification specialty assessors. New applicants will now submit information through the Alberta Blue Cross provider portal.

The changes are effective as of February 1, 2024.

## Policy updates

### Policy H – 05: Specialty assessor qualifications

The specialty assessor qualification policy has been revised to list qualifications required for benefits provided, rather than by type of practice. Descriptions have been streamlined for clarity.

### Policy H – 11: Fitting and verification of hearing aids

Clarifications about fitting dates and trial periods have been added to the policy statement.

AADL has adopted the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Protocol for Pediatric Amplification. This is now identified within the policy statement.

The protocol document specifies procedures and equipment requirements for the provision of amplification benefits including assessment, selection, fitting and verification of hearing aids and remote microphone hearing aid technology (RMHAT) systems for children up to 17 years old.

### Policy H – 12: Trial period

The trial policy has been revised to be much clearer and provide specific details on the trial period, followup and validation, and how and when a client can return a device to the vendor. The policy now also provides clear direction for vendors on how to handle the return of devices if a client passes away during the trial period.

### Policy H – 13: Amplification benefits validation certificate

The policy statement has been expanded to provide more clarity on when the validation certificate must be signed, what specifically the client is signing for and what steps to take at the end of the trial period, including if the client refuses to sign the final section of the validation certificate.

The procedures section has also been updated to clarify the specialty assessor's role, as well as expectations of the client, such as reading through and discussing the validation certificate with the specialty assessor.

### Policy H – 22: Quantity and frequency review request process

The criteria for quantity and frequency review requests have been simplified to remove reference to hearing threshold levels. The first criteria now reads: [The client] "has undergone a significant change in hearing since the original authorization and the hearing loss is no longer within the fitting range of the current amplification device(s)."

The policy also makes clear that amplification devices must be out of warranty before a quantity and review request may be submitted for it.

## Application process

Registered audiologists or hearing aid practitioners who wish to join the AADL program as specialty assessors will now apply through the Alberta Blue Cross provider portal: <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/aadl/audiology-home.php> by clicking “Register” near the top of the page.

If the applicant is an individual provider, or applying on behalf of an amplification vendor, they may select “Request secure website access for an individual provider or clinic.”

Applicants who are employed by an AADL-approved vendor should select “Add a practitioner to an existing account for online direct billing”

Applicants will be required to complete AADL online training Module 1, which consists of seven training videos on various AADL topics, and modules 2.8.1, 2.8.2 and 2.8.3, which cover amplification benefit information. Online training modules can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-authorizer-information-and-training>

## More information

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