

Information regarding Alberta Aids to Daily Living Wheelchair Benefits

Highlights of the Changes to Wheelchair Benefits

- ◆ New Eligibility Summary for Manual Wheelchair form
- ◆ Wheelchair benefits as a secondary product range
- ◆ Authorizer application for manual wheelchairs and seating (Level A) benefits
- ◆ Expectations of wheelchair authorizers
- ◆ New pediatric power wheelchair

New Eligibility Summary for Manual Wheelchair form

AADL is introducing a new **Eligibility Summary for Manual Wheelchairs** form which must be attached to all 1251 authorization forms with assessment dates on or after August 1, 2018.

The goal of the **Eligibility Summary for Manual Wheelchairs** form is to reduce the need to return authorizations that are missing justification and information. Authorizers are asked to begin using this form after its release on the website June 20th, but it will not be mandatory until August 1, 2018.

The current AADL Wheelchair Assessment Tool is discontinued as of June 20th. In its place, the AADL Seating Assessment form must be completed and kept on the client's file. AADL may request a copy of the assessment if an audit is conducted.

Authorizers must still attach the AADL Seating Assessment form when submitting 1250 Authorizations for seating benefits; however, it is not required to be attached to Wheelchair Authorizations.

Q&A Session

AADL will be hosting a teleconference Q&A session for Wheelchair Authorizers on Tuesday July 3rd, 2018 at 9:00 am. Please contact Andrea at andrea.waywanko@gov.ab.ca with your Authorizer number to register. Dial in information will be provided prior to the session.

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Wheelchair Benefits as a secondary product range

Authorizers who completed authorizer training in 2018 were not given wheelchair benefits as part of their products ranges. This change occurred in recognition of the specialized knowledge and skills needed to complete wheelchair assessments and prescriptions.

Authorizers who wish to add wheelchair benefits to their product ranges must complete the online module and complete the new application form. Both the module and application form will be available on the AADL website on June 20, 2018. The full requirements to become a wheelchair authorizer will be listed on the application form. Authorizers must read the form carefully to ensure all criteria is met prior to submitting the application form.

AADL reserves the right to require more than the minimum requirements or request additional training for information from authorizers who apply.

Please note, Authorizers who **currently** have wheelchair benefits as part of their product ranges **do not** need to reapply. This change is only for new authorizers since January 1, 2018 however review of the module is encouraged.

Authorizer application for manual wheelchairs and seating (Level A) benefits

On June 18, 2018, the new **Authorizer Application for Manual Wheelchairs and Level A Seating Benefits** form will become available. Authorizers will apply for both the wheelchair and Level A seating benefits product ranges using the same form.

The criteria for Level A Seating Benefits and Wheelchair Benefits have been combined. Authorizers must read the form carefully to ensure all criteria is met prior to submitting the application form.

AADL reserves the right to require more than the minimum requirements or request additional training for information from authorizers who apply.

Expectations of wheelchair authorizers

AADL expects authorizers who sign a 1251 form take full responsibility for the authorization. This is not a new expectation. Assessors have been permitted in order to ensure appropriate access to clinical assessments and to ensure appropriate mentorship for new therapists. However, AADL has been experiencing ongoing issues with authorizers being uninformed of the authorizations they are signing. This has resulted in errors, delays and confusion for all parties involved.

AADL would like to reinforce the importance of authorizers to be directly involved with the assessment of any wheelchairs they are authorizing. AADL will continue to monitor the process as AADL is considering changing the criteria to eliminate the use of assessors.

If you have any feedback on this, please contact the Mobility Manager, Jacki Whitford at jacki.whitford@gov.ab.ca.

New Pediatric Power Wheelchair

The Invacare Rovi X3 pediatric power wheelchair has been added to the Wheelchair Approved Product List. This is a mid-wheel drive pediatric power wheelchair with a 300 pound weight capacity. It is available in 11 to 20 inch seat widths and depths. This model comes standard with blue tooth capabilities making it an option for children who require blue tooth access for their speech generating communication device.