

# Alberta Aids to Daily Living

## Bulletin #69

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### Updates to Respiratory Policy and Procedures

#### Policy Updates Effective

March 1, 2019

#### **Policy R-19 Clinical Eligibility Criteria- General**

AADL has updated the criteria to fund home oxygen for people with a palliative condition.

The updated criteria will make funding more accessible to people with a palliative condition who have documented shortness of breath. The mMRC scale, a new addition to the policy, will be used to document the shortness of breath. The oxygen saturation has also be adjusted to accept levels less than 92%, from the current 90% level.

Home oxygen shall be approved if a client has:

- a life limiting illness with a prognosis of 6 months or less, AND
- documented shortness of breath (mMRC 3-4) despite appropriate non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic interventions, AND
- resting room air oximetry showing SpO<sub>2</sub> < 92 percent while awake for at least three continuous minutes.

The Clinical Advisory Committee reviewed literature and heard feedback from the AHS Strategic Clinical Network and this change reflects best clinical practice.

#### **Definition of Severe Restrictive Lung Disease**

For added clarity a definition for severe restrictive lung disease has been added to Policy R-14, R-16 and R-17. It is defined as **FVC** less than 70% predicted with the absence of obesity (BMI less than 37); or unadjusted Diffusion Capacity for Carbon Monoxide (DLCO) less than 50% predicted.

Severity definition has also been expanded to include:

- Recent hospital admission for an acute exacerbation of interstitial lung disease within the past 24 weeks;
- Greater than 50 metre decline in distance walked (in an exertional walk test) over a 24 week period; or
- SpO<sub>2</sub> decrease to less than or equal to 79% within 6 minutes of a room air exertion walk.

#### **Non-Oxygen Benefits – Suction Catheters**

Policy R-30 Authorization Process: Non-Oxygen Benefits has been updated to reflect that Market Drugs is the sole provider of AADL funded suction catheters.

#### **Policy R-17 Clinical Eligibility Criteria**

Updated process. After the Request to Challenge the Walk Test (WTS) authorization has been approved. The WTS authorization will now remain PENDED for 90 days from the submission date. Alberta Blue Cross will send an email reminder to the authorizer one week prior to the pending authorization end date.

#### **Policy R-36 Provision of Home BPAP**

For clients requiring a second BPAP and who have a rapidly progressive neuromuscular condition, a recent BPAP compliance download of at least 14 days, must show the BPAP usage is greater than or equal to 16 hours per day. The 14 day compliance download is a change from the previous 30 day compliance download requirement.