

Alberta Aids to Daily Living

Bulletin #66

Updates to Alberta Aids to Daily Living Mobility, Seating and Wheelchair Accessory Benefits November 2018

Benchmark Mobility Benefit Updates

On October 25, 2018, AADL held a Benchmark Benefit review meeting with vendors, authorizers and AADL staff. The Approved Product Lists (APL) for B-Small Bathing and Toileting, C-Walking Aids, E-Transfer Aids and Overlays and G-Large Bathing and Toileting were reviewed and representative benchmark products chosen for each catalogue number. Thank you to those who participated in the review. AADL values and relies on the expertise and input of both vendors and clinicians for these annual reviews. The following highlights the changes that were made:

- Maximum prices were increased for the C225 - Four Wheeled Walker, the benefit with the highest number of clients funded in this benefit group.
- The C176 Oxygen Holder benefit was expanded to cover both single and double tank holders and the price maximum increased.
- A C277- a Four Wheeled Posterior Walker has been added. Over the past year, AADL has received a number of appeals for posterior walkers to meet the needs of adults with severely impaired gait and who require additional support using a posterior walker. Clinical rationale will be required to access this benefit.

Please note when considering benchmark products, they must meet equipment standards including an adequate warranty.

Even if a manufacturer/distributor is on the Approved Manufacturer list, the product sold must meet minimum warranties to be covered by AADL.

Private Insurance and AADL Recycle Benefits

The requirement for clients to access their Private Insurance for AADL **recycle benefits** was removed October 2018. Albertans who have private insurance and require **consumable benefits** or non-recycle benefits continue to access their private insurance prior to accessing AADL funding. Recycle benefits are wheelchairs and large pieces of equipment that are formally recycled by AADL and remain the property of the Government of Alberta. AADL does not coordinate funding with third party funding agencies. When a client accesses their private insurance, they do not go through AADL for partial coverage on equipment.

Third party funding agencies may request their client obtain a wheelchair assessment. Providing this service is at the discretion of the healthcare provider and is separate from AADL.

Seating Benefits

Recently, AADL has noticed a rise in authorizers using the V495 code for adjustable tension back upholstery on new orders for Category A wheelchairs and crossing off the adjustable tension back on the spec sheet. Regular adjustable tension back upholstery does not require a separate W or V-Code unless it is a specialized adjustable tension back which includes Keyhole and K-backs. If the client requires a regular adjustable tension back, it is to be checked off on the spec sheet.

The Seating APL will be revised to clarify the type of back upholstery that can be ordered under the V495 code. Using the V495 code for a specialized back

upholstery sets a limit on replacing the upholstery to one in three years and should be used with discretion. Authorizations for regular adjustable tension backs will not be accepted under V495 and will be returned to the authorizer.

Wheelchair and Accessories Updates

Adjustable back canes and adjustable back upholstery: During the recent benefit review on wheelchairs, pricing for Category A wheelchairs revealed two models which came in with upcharges over the \$2500.00 price when adjustable back canes and adjustable tension backs were included, these are the Catalyst 4 and the Maple Leaf Swift. There are a number of Category A manual wheelchairs on the APL that include these two features and do not go over the \$2500.00 for those clients where an upcharge is a concern.

Parts Changes: The review also found there is an increase in authorizers submitting parts changes six months after obtaining a Category A wheelchair for adjustable tension back upholstery and adjustable back canes. The wait time for submitting these two parts changes has been increased to twelve months. Please consider your client's needs and potential needs at the time of authorization and order these on the wheelchair spec sheets if required.

W-APL Updates

An updated W-Approved Product List will be posted December 1, 2018 along with revised Category A spec sheets. Wording under the Tilt-in-Space Wheelchairs will be clarified and a new code to access additional funds for wheelchairs with widths of 22" or greater or depths of 20" or greater has been added. The extra funds are available to clients needing an oversize wheelchair without a heavy duty package.

Discontinued wheelchairs: The PDG Express lines have been discontinued for the Stellar, Bentley and FuzeT50 (pediatric only) as the manufacturer is no longer offering the Express pricing. Under power wheelchairs, the Invacare Storm TDX-SC for pediatrics was discontinued by the manufacturer.

Q & A Sessions

AADL will be holding teleconference Q&A Sessions on December 17th at 9am and December 18th at 1:30pm for Authorizers or Vendors that have questions regarding these updates or the updates which will be posted December 1. Contact Andrea Waywanko at andrea.waywanko@gov.ab.ca to register for either of these session.