

ADP Today

A Newsletter from the Assistive Devices Program
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Summer/Fall 2007 Issue

Health System Stewardship

Brenda Kritzer, Director, Individual Eligibility Review Branch (IERB)

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is changing its focus and embracing a new direction. As we continue to work towards better health care for Ontarians, stewardship will become the ministry's mission and mandate. This new stewardship role will mean that the ministry will provide overall direction and leadership for the system, focusing on planning, and on guiding resources to bring value to the health system. The ministry will be less involved when it comes to the actual delivery of health care and more involved in:

- Establishing overall strategic direction and provincial priorities for the health system;
- Developing legislation, regulations, standards, policies, and directives to support those strategic directions;
- Monitoring and reporting on the performance of the health system and the health of Ontarians; and
- Planning for and establishing funding models and levels of funding for the health care system.

As a result of this new role, the ministry is undergoing an organizational restructuring process. On January 19, 2007, I was appointed Director of the new Individual Eligibility Review Branch of the

Corporate and Direct Services Division, effective February 1, 2007. The responsibility for the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) has been transferred from the Operational Support Branch to the new Individual Eligibility Review Branch (IERB).

The new branch will have responsibility for the Trillium and Seniors Co-Payment Drug Programs, payments through the on-line Health Network System, the Assistive Devices and Home Oxygen Program, as well as the Blood Programs Coordinating Office and Hepatitis C Secretariat. IERB's goal is to develop best practices in service delivery, funding structures and processes, change management and performance measures.

While we work to ensure a smooth transition, there will be no change in the day to day ADP operations, location or contact numbers. I look forward to working collaboratively with all ADP partners.

Insulin Pump and Supplies Program

As of December 1, 2006, the ADP provides funding assistance for insulin pumps for eligible children and youth eighteen years of age and younger. A grant is also provided to help cover the cost of related supplies whereby individuals with type 1 diabetes apply through their Ontario Paediatric Diabetes Program.

Wheelchair, Positioning and Ambulation Aids

Application Form

The new application form for mobility devices was implemented in June 2006 and has streamlined the application process for mobility equipment. Feedback from stakeholders regarding the ease of using the new form has been very positive. The application form and information about the program including, frequently asked questions, is available on the ADP website.

Standing Committee

New members recently welcomed to the committee include, authorizer Barbara McDonald (Ottawa), vendor representatives Mindy Grant and Susan Tarrant, and manufacturer representatives Hughes Myner and Chris Mohan.

Rights of ADP clients residing in Long-Term Care Homes

Clients may choose the vendor from whom they wish to purchase their ADP authorized equipment, regardless of any contractual agreement that the home may have with an ADP registered vendor. ADP authorizers **must provide** their clients and/or their legal representative with a list of ADP registered vendors serving their community. ADP Registered Vendors must inform their customers about the ADP and refer them to the ADP and/or an ADP registered authorizer for detailed information. Clients may be informed of a contractual

agreement the home may have, but must not be directed to deal with the vendor exclusively. For information about ADP funded equipment in Long-Term Care Homes, please visit our website at www.health.gov.on.ca under the ADP.

Sensory and Communication Aids

Visual Aids

As of March 1, 2007, the ADP provides funding assistance for colour closed circuit televisions (CCTVs). ADP high technology and CCTV authorizers, representatives from the Sight Enhancement Equipment Pool and ADP staff met on February 15, 2007 to discuss implementation details.

Vendors are reminded that serial numbers must be provided on invoices.

Note: Invoices dated on or after August 1, 2007 with missing serial numbers for: stand alone OCR systems; braille embossers; refreshable braille displays and personal information managers will be put on hold and will not be paid until the serial numbers are provided. Please refer to Section 910 of the ADP Policies and Procedures Manual.

Hearing Aids

A credit note must be issued to the ADP within two weeks from the date an ADP client returns a hearing aid(s) to the vendor. Credit notes must be sent directly to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Supply and Financial Services Branch, Health Care Payments and Services, 2nd Floor, 49 Place D'Armes, P.O. Box 48, Kingston, ON, K7L 5J3. Fax (613) 548-6514. Do not send credit notes to the ADP office in Toronto.

Communication Aids

Effective June 1, 2007 the ADP's pricing framework was implemented.

A memo explaining the pricing framework and new product manuals (one for individual authorizers and one for clinic authorizers) were distributed to ADP registered authorizers and vendors. We would like to thank the working group comprised of authorizers, vendors and Centralized Equipment Pool representatives who provided advice and support in the development of the new product manuals.

ADP registered authorizers employed at ADP designated Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) clinics who prescribe high technology devices are reminded that their registration status must be active and associated with a specific AAC clinic at the time that they authorize a device(s). Clinic managers must notify the ADP Registration Unit when an authorizer joins or leaves the employment of the clinic.

Request for ADP High Technology Vendor E-mail Address

The ADP continues to move to the electronic communication environment. For those high technology visual and communication aid vendors who have not yet responded, please send us the following information: vendor name, ADP registration number, contact name and business e-mail address. Please e-mail this information to Caroline.Kuniyasu@moh.gov.on.ca. This will enable the sensory team to communicate information about the ADP in a more timely and efficient manner.

Prosthetics and Orthotics

Pressure Modification Devices

On October 1, 2006, changes were implemented to increase ease of access for individuals who require garments and/or devices for

hypertrophic scar and lymphedema management. Lymphedema management now includes the allowance of general practitioners in oncology to prescribe for first time access and ongoing medical assessments every two years by the applicant's family physician. The Pressure Modification Devices Category Administration Manual is now posted on our website at www.health.gov.on.ca

Orthotics

An updated device manual was sent to all registered vendors and authorizers in April 2007.

Conventional Limb Prostheses and Externally Powered Upper Limb Prostheses

As part of an ongoing review and update in these categories, new pricing was implemented on February 1, 2007 for limb prostheses.

The requirement for Special Requests for Funding has been reviewed and the process streamlined to simplify procedures for both authorizers and ADP staff.

Maxillofacial Prostheses

Updated pricing was implemented on March 1, 2007.

Ocular Prostheses

Effective July 1, 2007, the ADP is providing funding assistance for the reglazing procedure for ADP approved ocular prostheses. Clients should contact their ocularist for more information.

New Funding Model

Since July 2006, the ADP has been providing a grant directly to individuals requiring breast prostheses. Contact the ADP or visit our website for more information.

Medical Supplies and Home Oxygen Program

Hospital Replacement Program (HRP)

The two-year pilot project ended on April 30, 2007. The intent of the HRP was to provide funding assistance for short-term home oxygen therapy to clients with an acute respiratory illness who could then avoid admission to or be discharged from the hospital early. The ADP is currently completing an evaluation of the program to determine its impact. The evaluation is being carried out by an external consulting firm specializing in health care project evaluation.

Individuals requiring home oxygen therapy will continue to access funding assistance through the Home Oxygen Program. Eligibility criteria, and the application process remain in place.

Auto-titrating Positive Airway Pressure (APAP) Systems

On July 1, 2007, the ADP implemented the following changes to the APAP system's funding program.

1. The new ADP approved price for an APAP system is \$1,585.00
2. Based on the recommendations of the Positive Airway Pressure Task Force, individuals requesting funding assistance for an APAP system must meet the criteria outlined in the Respiratory Devices Administrative Manual (section 7) and demonstrate the following:

Polysomnographically documented obstructive sleep apnea, with a minimum pressure change of 4 cmH₂O on a prescribed fixed CPAP pressure of 10 cmH₂O. The change must occur between rapid eye movement vs. non rapid eye movement sleep or supine vs. sleeping on their side.

Finance and Audit Unit

The Finance and Audit Unit is responsible for the financial management and accountability of ministry funds related to the ADP. The unit conducts regular routine audits of all ADP registered vendors and investigates incoming complaints. The assistance and cooperation of vendors, clients, health professionals and members of the public is critical to the success of our efforts.

Please report any suspected health-care irregularities and frauds pertaining to the Assistive Devices/ Home Oxygen Program to the ADP Audit Coordinator.

Fraud Programs Branch

In February 2007 the mandate of the Fraud Programs Branch was expanded to ensure a more comprehensive approach to fraud detection, prevention and loss reduction. The branch co-ordinates all fraud-related activities for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, conducts analysis of the ministry's claims payment systems to proactively detect any possible fraudulent activity, and analyze patterns of activity that may point to an area of concern.

If there is suspicion of health care fraud or abuse, you can report this anonymously to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's OHIP Fraud Line at 1-888-781-5556, or e-mail: reportohipfraud@moh.gov.on.ca.

Please note that the ADP will no longer be distributing paper copies of ADP Today. The next edition of ADP Today will be published online. If you would like to be on our distribution list please send your e-mail address to adptoday@moh.gov.on.ca

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How to Contact Us

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General inquiry telephone #: In Toronto, call 416-327-8804
Toll-free in Ontario only: 1-800-268-6021
TTY: 1-800-387-5559
Fax number: 416-327-8192

Detach this form and mail or fax it back to the address above, or e-mail your comments to adptoday@moh.gov.on.ca.

Comments:
