

The background of the slide features a collage of medical supplies. In the top left, a pair of surgical scissors is visible. Below it are several adhesive bandages (band-aids) in various sizes and colors (white, yellow, brown). A large, brown, circular stoma bag with a central opening is prominently displayed in the center. To the right, another similar bag is partially visible. The overall theme is medical care and home health.

Home Health Care in Alberta Pharmacies

Presenter: Anna Lilley

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Presenter/ speaker Personal Disclosure

Anna Lilley



I have the following relationships with commercial interests:

Current Employee of
Market Drugs Medical Ltd.



Speaking Fees for the current program:

I have received a speaker's fee from the
Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta
for this learning activity

Learning objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:



Describe

The range of home medical supplies available in Alberta pharmacies and home medical supply vendors



Navigate

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) and Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), two common funding programs



Recognize

When to refer patients to specialized providers

What are Home Health Care products?

Home health care products support:



Examples:

- Aids to daily living
- Bracing & supports
- Others: complex
- Others: simple
- Mobility
- Bathroom safety
- Fitted items
- Ostomy, continence/ incontinence
- Wound care & first-aid

Vendor types



Specialty suppliers



Home medical supply stores



Community
pharmacies

Urban vs rural

Common Categories Seen in Community Pharmacy

Others: simple

Basic bracing

Basic wound care

Incontinence

Compression

Who Pays?

Patient payment

Private insurance

Government programs

- AADL (Alberta Aids to Daily Living)
- NIHB (Non-insured Health Benefits)
- IFHB (Interim Federal Health Benefits)
- DVA (Dept. Veterans Affairs)
- DND (Dept. National Defense)
- WCB (Workers Compensation Board)
- Others, specific to person and product, if not covered by other government programs (Child Services, AISH)

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

Supports Albertans with long-term disabilities, chronic medical conditions, and terminal illness to live independently in their communities.

Benefits include:

- Mobility equipment
- Bathroom aids
- Compression garments
- Ostomy supplies
- Incontinence

<https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-program-manual-and-product-lists>

- Bathing and toileting aids (small): [Section B and small bathing and toileting aids approved product list](#) 
- Bathing and toileting aids (large): [Section G and large bathing and toileting approved product list](#) 
- Breast prostheses: [Section D and breast prostheses approved product list](#) 
- Burn garments: [Section J and burn garments approved product list](#) 
- Communication benefits
 - Speech generating communication devices: [Section AS and speech generating communication devices approved product list](#) 
 - Voice restoration and electrolarynx: [Section A and voice restoration approved product list](#) 
- Compression garments
 - Custom-made: [Section T and custom-made garments approved product list](#) 
 - Ready-made: [Section N and ready-made garments approved product list](#) 
- Footwear benefits
 - Custom-made: [Section F and custom-made footwear approved product list](#) 
 - Therapeutic: [Section FT and therapeutic footwear approved product list](#) 
 - Elevation: [Section SE and foot elevation approved product list](#) 
 - [AADL-Recognized High Risk Foot Teams](#) 
- Hearing aids (amplification): [Section H and hearing aid approved product list](#) 
- Mattress overlays, transfer aids and accessories: [Section E and mattress overlays, transfer aids and accessories approved product list](#) 
- Medical-surgical (ostomy, catheters, incontinence): [Section M and medical-surgical and incontinence approved product lists](#) 
- Ocular prosthesis: [Section Y and ocular prosthesis approved product list](#) 

Navigating AADL

- **Eligible:** Long-term need, valid Alberta PHN, and additional clinical requirements. Do not need to be low-income.
- **Not eligible:** If you have funding from other sources for comparable benefits. How patients access services

Steps

1. Connect with an authorizer or specialty assessor
2. Obtain assessment and funding authorization
3. Purchase benefits from an AADL-approved vendor

<https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-clients>

Navigating AADL

1. Connect with the authorizer or specialty assessor

General assessments can be made via Continuing Care Access

Calgary & area - (403) 943-1920

Edmonton & area - (780) 496-1300

Alberta North & Central areas - 1 (855) 371-4122

Alberta South (Lethbridge, Medicine Hat & area) - 1 (866) 388-6380

Navigating AADL

2. Obtain assessment & funding

- **Based on basic clinical needs**, quantity and frequency maximums, and some minimums.
- **Cost-sharing determination:** patient pays 25% of the cost of the benefit, up to a maximum of \$500 per family per benefit year (July 1st- June 30th)
- **Cost-share exemption** for low-income Albertans
 - \$20,970 or less for a single person
 - \$33,240 or less for a family, no children
 - \$39,250 or less for a family with children

Navigating AADL

3. Purchase benefits from an AADL approved vendor

- The authorizer provides a list of at least 3 AADL-approved vendors in the area.
- The client can change vendors at any time.
- AADL sets the maximum pricing they will pay (benchmark pricing).
- Clients pay the vendor their cost-share portion; the vendor makes a claim to AADL for their portion
- Vendor requirements are specific to the benefit.

AADL approved vendor list,

<https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-approved-vendors-list>

<https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-vendor-information>

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Who is eligible?

- Federal program
- Registered First Nations
- Recognized Inuit

[1.0 General policies](#)

[2.0 Audiology equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[3.0 Limb and body orthotics equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[4.0 Footwear equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[5.0 Oxygen equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[6.0 Pressure devices equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[7.0 Prosthetics equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[8.0 Respiratory equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[9.0 Self-care equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[10.0 Low vision equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[11.0 Mobility equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[12.0 Communication equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

[13.0 Medical surgical equipment and supplies benefits list](#)

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585320116553/1585320137871>

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Open benefits and Prior Approval Requirements

- Different benefits have different types of prescribers or recommenders
- Some items have open benefits
- Many benefits require prior approval
 - Approvals are often yearly or by 3 months only
 - Approvals are typically specific to the vendor
 - Can be direct billed with pharmacy software

Medical-surgical & equipment Benefit lists on

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1590168766044/1590168799917#s13-4-8>

Prior approval forms and price files can be accessed through the NIHB ESI website

<https://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/0205140506092019/13>

Other Funding Programs



Interim Federal Health Program (IFHB): Federal, refugees

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-within-canada/health-care.html>



Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC): Federal, veterans

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/financial-programs-and-services/medical-costs/search-vac-treatment-benefits>



Department of National Defence (CAF): Federal, serving members

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/benefits-military/pay-pension-benefits/benefits/medical-dental/supplemental-health-care.html#3-misc-expense-benefits>



Workers' Compensation Board (WCB); Provincial,

<https://www.wcb.ab.ca/>

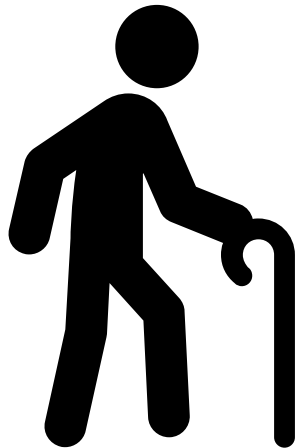


Private insurance

Typical workflow



Practical Case 1:
A 70-year-old man
after hip
replacement



Not Indigenous, not Refugee, not Work Related

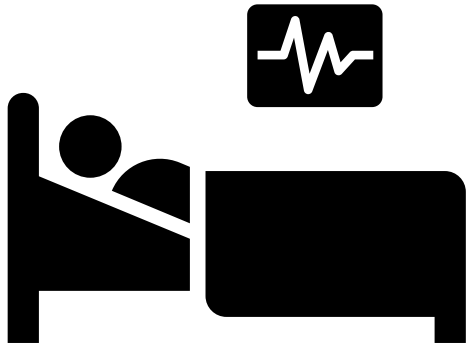
Recommended:

- 2-wheeled walker
- Hip kit (long handled shoehorn, sponge, sock donner)
- Raised toilet seat

Discuss:

- Funding?
- Referral?
- Other product options or considerations?

Practical Case 2:
A 52-year-old woman
new ostomate after
pancreatic cancer



Patient request: from discharge coordinator/ NSWOC

Recommended:

- Ostomy supplies (flanges, pouches, rings, extenders, lubricating odor eliminator, adhesive remover wipes, barrier wipes)

Discuss:

- Funding?
- Referral?
- Other product options or considerations?

Key Take-Home Messages



Community pharmacies provide access to a wide range of home health products



Funding pathways can be complex



Understanding common benefit programs, like AADL and NIHB, improves patient outcomes



Appropriate referrals improve outcomes



Questions?

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