

# Alberta Aids to Daily Living

## Voice restoration and electrolarynx benefits factsheet

### Introduction

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) provides funding to Albertans with long-term and chronic disabilities for basic medical equipment and supplies to meet their clinically assessed needs. AADL benefits are provided to support individuals to live as independently as possible and participate in daily activities in their communities.

AADL funds voice restoration and electrolarynx supplies for individuals who have had a laryngectomy to help meet their basic communication and health needs.

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for AADL funding, you must first be assessed by a speech-language pathologist who is an AADL funding authorizer for voice restoration and electrolarynx benefits.

Clients must be medically stable and able to demonstrate they can use voice restoration supplies or electrolarynx for their communication needs.

### Process

The speech-language pathologist will determine which laryngectomy benefits meet your clinical needs, provide education and support on how to use the products and help guide you through the AADL process.

After being approved for AADL funding, your benefits will be ordered directly from an approved vendor and shipped to your home address.

Copies of the funding authorizations made on your behalf can be provided to you by the speech-language pathologist authorizer at the time the order is processed.

### Supplies covered

AADL funds a variety of electrolarynxes, external speaking valves, voice prostheses, supplies and accessories. A complete list of funded products can be found here:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-a>

### Cost sharing

AADL is a cost-share program where clients and AADL share the cost of approved benefits received from AADL. AADL will pay 75 per cent of the cost of the benefit and clients pay 25 per cent, up to a maximum of \$500 per family per benefit year (July 1 to June 30) for all AADL benefits received.

Low-income clients and those receiving income supplement benefits may be exempt from cost sharing. To apply for a cost-share exemption, you can fill out an Application for Cost-Share Exemption form found on the AADL website.

If you are not low-income, but have recently had a significant reduction to your income, you may be eligible for a temporary cost-share exemption.

To qualify for a cost-share exemption, clients must have their most recent tax return on file with the Canada Revenue Agency.

Visit the AADL website for more information about how you can qualify for a cost-share exemption.

### Client's role

You play an important part in ensuring that you receive items ordered on your behalf. Please discuss your supply needs for the coming months at each visit with your speech-language pathologist so they can be provided in a timely manner. We encourage you to identify supply needs three to six months in advance to reduce delays.

If you have not received ordered items within two weeks of the authorization date, contact the vendor directly. All shipped orders are tracked by each vendor to ensure timely delivery. Delivery may be delayed if items are not in stock or on back order.

For cost-sharing clients, the vendor will not ship items until your cost-share portion has been paid to them. If you have concerns about cost-share payments, you may be able to discuss options for payment with the vendor.

For supplies that need to be inserted by a specialist, such as lary tubes and indwelling valves, bring the supplies to your next visit to a speech-language pathologist. Do not open the

box of valves or lary tubes in case they need to be returned to the vendor.

If you do not wish to use the supplies being recommended, please let your speech-language pathologist know.

## **More information**

You can find AADL voice restoration and electrolarynx policy and procedure information here:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-a>