

Voice Restoration Benefits Provided by AADL

AADL is making changes to better help Albertans who use speaking valves and related products to restore their ability to speak. AADL provides funding for products based on assessed clinical needs and authorized by AADL Speech-Language-Pathology (SLP) Authorizers.

Currently AADL provides a maximum of \$1400 through reimbursement to eligible clients for items purchased. Effective October 1, 2016 these changes will occur:

- ◆ AADL has expanded the voice restoration products covered and the amount available each year.
- ◆ SLP Authorizers will select items based on the client's assessed needs from the list of approved products and advise AADL.
- ◆ Clients will no longer pay upfront for products and send in paid invoices for reimbursement.
- ◆ Instead, AADL will order the products based on the assessment of the SLP Authorizer.
- ◆ Cost share will continue to be applied to all items. Clients will pay any cost share contribution directly to the vendor and the vendor will ship the products to the SLP Authorizer or to the client.
- ◆ Clients who are cost-share exempt will not have to pay the cost-share portion.

The Voice Restoration Approved Product List includes annual quantities for items such as indwelling voice prosthesis, heat and moisture exchange filters, lary tubes, and stoma covers.

The list has been compiled to meet the basic health and communication needs for someone who has had a laryngectomy. The complete product list will be available October 1, 2016 to the public on the AADL website at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AADL-Manual-A-Products.pdf>.

Items which are not on the approved product list will be the client's responsibility to purchase.

Clients who need more information about these changes and how they apply to their communication needs, can contact their Speech-Language Pathology Authorizer.

For general information about communication benefits available through AADL contact Christine Beliveau, Speech-Language Pathology Consultant, at AADL at christine.beliveau@gov.ab.ca.

