

Assistive Devices Program
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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 11, 2014

To: **Assistive Devices Program (ADP) Registered Authorizers**
Communication Aids, Orthotic Devices, Lymphedema Management

ADP Registered Clinics

Augmentative and Alternative Communication
Diabetes Education Programs

ADP Registered Vendors

Communication Aids, Insulin Pumps, Lymphedema Management (Garments and Sleeves),
Orthotic Devices, Respiratory Devices,
Vendors of Record for Home Oxygen Services

From: **Susan Picarello, Director**
Assistive Devices Program

Subject: **Expanded Role for Nurse Practitioners in the Assistive Devices Program**

Nurse Practitioners (Registered Nurses in the Extended Class) will have an expanded role in serving Ontario residents applying to the Assistive Devices Program for funding assistance.

Effective April 1, 2014, Nurse Practitioners (in addition to physicians) will be able to perform the following:

- **Communication aids** – Confirm relevant diagnosis and presence of a long-term physical disability requiring the use of a communication aid.
- **Home oxygen** - Prescribe home oxygen therapy for:
 - applicants who demonstrate hypoxemia (low blood oxygen levels) at rest
 - applicants who are receiving palliative care and are in the last 3 months of terminal illness.
- **Insulin pumps and supplies** – Prescribe insulin pumps and supplies for individuals with type 1 diabetes provided that the NP is working at an ADP registered Diabetes Education Program (DEP) and is registered as prescriber at the DEP.
- **Orthotic devices** – Provide the individual's diagnosis and make a referral to an orthotist for "Other Orthotic Devices".

- **Pressure modification devices** – Assess clients for replacement garments and sleeves required for lymphedema management.
- **Respiratory equipment and supplies** – Prescribe the following:
 - apnea/cardiorespiratory monitors
 - medication compressors
 - high output air compressors
 - airway clearance devices
 - suction machines and the associated supplies
 - tracheostomy tubes and the associated supplies.

Updated documentation, including the *Policies and Procedures Manual for the Assistive Devices Program*, relevant policy and administration manuals, application forms, and applicant information sheets, will be posted in the near future on the ADP Web site at:

<http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/adp/publications.aspx>.

Please direct your questions regarding these changes to adp@ontario.ca.

Original signed by:

Susan Picarello
Director
Assistive Devices Program

Aussi disponible en français sur demande à adp@ontario.ca.