


Online Training Module

Module 2.8.1

Alberta Aids to Daily Living
Amplification Benefits
August 2022




Alberta

Classification: Public

Module 2.8.1 Overview

The Amplification Benefits training module is divided into the following sections:


1. Training Modules
2. General Eligibility Criteria
3. Hearing Aid Eligibility and Hearing Loss Criteria
4. Cost-Share and Cost-Share Exemption



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Section 1

Training Modules



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AADL Training Modules

Module 1 – AADL general overview, policies and procedures

- [Module 1.1 – Introduction to AADL](#)
- [Module 1.2 – Authorizers and Authorizing for Benefits](#)
- [Module 1.3 – Vendors and Provision of Benefits](#)
- [Module 1.4 – Specialty Supplier Roles](#)
- [Module 1.5 – Cost Sharing](#)
- [Module 1.6 – Complaint Registry](#)
- [Module 1.7 – Quantity and Frequency Review](#)

Module 2.8 Amplification Benefits


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Section 2

General Eligibility Criteria

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Program Overview

AADL provides funding for Albertans with long-term and chronic disabilities

- Funding is provided to cover **BASIC** medical equipment and supplies to meet *clinically assessed need*.

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Program Overview

- General information about the AADL program is outlined in Module 1.1, the AADL program manuals and the approved product lists
- It is an AADL requirement that all AADL providers are familiar with:
 - AADL policies, procedures, and approved product lists
 - Client eligibility
 - Cost-share
 - Provider roles and responsibilities

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Program Eligibility – Residency Requirements

- Clients must be a permanent resident of Alberta.
- Out of province - not covered until the 1st of the third month after arrival.
- Out of country – must have an active AB health care number.
 - Cost-share for first 12 months of residency.
 - Cannot apply for cost-share exemption until they have resided in Canada for 12 consecutive months **and** filed an income tax return with Canada Revenue Agency.

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Refugees

- May have access to federal **or** provincial coverage, depending on the circumstances surrounding arrival.
- Check with AADL prior to providing services, to determine eligibility.

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Client Eligibility (GN-16)

Clients are not eligible to receive AADL benefits if they receive comparable benefits from another source, including:

- Workers Compensation Board (WCB)
- Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) - "A" Clients
- Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)
- Federal Programs such as RCMP & Armed Forces
- Motor vehicle accident claims
- Correctional institutions
- Private insurance plan

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Private Insurance

- Albertans with private health insurance that covers 100 per cent of the cost of the benefit are not eligible for the same benefit under AADL.
- Once the private health insurance coverage is exhausted, the client may become eligible under AADL.

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Section 3

**Hearing Aid Eligibility
and
Hearing Loss Criteria**

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Client Eligibility (H-01)

- Eligibility for amplification benefits is assessed by:
 - **Authorizers** who are audiologists with Alberta Health Services.
 - **Specialty Assessors** who are audiologists and/or hearing aid practitioners in private practice.

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Amplification Benefits (H-01)

- Amplification benefits available to eligible clients include:
 - Hearing aids
 - Personal listening devices
 - Remote microphone hearing assistive technology (RM-HAT) systems
 - Bone anchored hearing aids
 - Cochlear implant processors
 - Earmolds
 - Repairs

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Hearing Aid Eligibility Criteria (H-02)

- To be eligible for an amplification device:
 - Clients must have a *permanent* hearing loss, confirmed by a registered audiologist or registered hearing aid practitioner
 - Hearing loss is considered permanent if it is irreversible by medication or surgery and is likely to last for a period of six months or more.

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Childhood Hearing Loss Criteria (H-02)

- Children under the age of 18 are covered for amplification benefits as per the approved products list.
- Children must be assessed and treated by a **Registered Audiologist**.
- Children 0-6 years must be fit following the AHS/ACLSIPA Pediatric Amplification Protocol available on the AHS/ACLSIPA websites.

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Childhood Hearing Loss Criteria (0-17 years)

- Diagnostic audiogram for children must reflect either of the following:
 - Pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz greater than 20 dBHL
 - High frequency hearing loss: pure tone thresholds greater than 20 dB at two or more frequencies at or above 2000 Hz
 - ABR criteria as outlined in the AHS/ACSLIPA Pediatric Amplification (PedAMP) protocol manual.

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Adult Hearing Loss Criteria (H-02)

- Diagnostic audiogram must reflect either of the following, and the client must be motivated to wear a hearing device:
 - A total hearing loss of 100 decibels, or greater, when calculated over the speech frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000 and 3000 Hz. To calculate total hearing loss, add the threshold values at 500, 1000, 2000 and 3000 Hz.
 - High frequency hearing loss: pure tone thresholds greater than 25 dB at two or more frequencies at, or above, 2000 Hz.

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Criteria for clients 18 – 64 years (H-02)

Clients between the ages 18-64 must meet one or more of the following criteria to be eligible for hearing aid benefits:

- They are eligible for cost-share exemption, based on income
- They receive assistance under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program or the Income Support Program; or
- They are a full-time student, aged 18 to 24 years

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Criteria for Full-Time Students (H-02)

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for amplification benefits:

- They are a full-time student, aged 18 to 24 years
- They are still receiving benefits under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan *as a dependent under their parents' plan*.
- Proof of full-time educational enrolment is required.

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Criteria for Clients over 65 & Adult Dependents of Seniors (H-02)

Clients over the age of 65 and adult dependents of seniors:

- must submit the Alberta Health Proof of Age form or the Alberta Seniors Financial Assistance Application form to confirm their age.
- Albertans are eligible for seniors' hearing aid funding the first of the month following their 65th birthday.


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Section 4

Cost-Share and Cost-Share Exemption


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Cost-Share Criteria (GN-21)

- See Module 1.5 and the AADL General Policy and Procedures Manual for comprehensive cost-share and cost-share exemption information and criteria.
- Amplification benefit eligibility is based on client household income levels, as per the AADL cost-share policy outlined in the AADL General Policy and Procedures Manual.
- AADL benefit year runs from July 1 through June 30.

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Special Needs Assistance for Seniors

Low-income seniors can get financial assistance to help afford the cost of appliances and specific health and personal supports through the Alberta **Special Needs Assistance** (SNA) program. To be eligible for the SNA program clients must:

- be 65 years of age or older
- be an Alberta resident
- be a Canadian citizen or have been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence
- meet financial eligibility criteria
- have provided a [Seniors Financial Assistance](#) application

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Cost-Share Exemption for Hearing Aids

- Clients (0-64 years) must complete the general **Application for Cost-share Exemption**
- Seniors and their adult dependents must complete the **Hearing Aid Benefit Cost-Share Exemption Application for Seniors and Their Adult Dependents** to apply for CSE.

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Cost-Share Exemption Inquires & Applications

AADL cost-share exemption applications must be submitted to AADL Client Services via the fax number on the application form.

- If the CSE application is **approved**, the Alberta Blue Cross online portal will be updated within two weeks of application receipt.
- If the CSE application is **denied**, the client will be sent a letter, within two weeks of application receipt, explaining why their application was denied.

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Cost-Share Status

Each family is assigned one of the following cost-share statuses:

- **Cost-share** – The family pays cost share for the benefit year.
- **Cost-share max reached** – The maximum \$500 cost share portion has been paid by the family and no further cost share payments are required for the benefit year. This includes ALL AADL benefits, not just amplification.
- **Cost-share exempt** – The family is exempt from paying cost share for the benefit year.
- **Temporary cost-share exempt** – The family is exempt from paying cost-share until the end of the current benefit year.

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Cost-Share Amounts

Cost-share and cost-share exempt amounts, quantities and frequencies are outlined in the approved product list.

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Example #1: Cost share client purchased one hearing aid that cost MORE than \$1200

Health claim summary

Total amount claimed	\$1,400.00
AADL will pay	\$900.00
Patient will pay	\$500.00

Details

Each claim you submit is assessed according to the benefit rules under the Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program.

Patient:

Provider: Professional Audiology Clinic Ltd

Service date (YYYY/MM/DD)	Product or service	Practitioner	Claimed amount	AADL contribution	Patient cost share portion	Patient upgrade charge	Explanation number*
2022/08/17	Behind-the-ear hearing aid		1,400.00	\$900.00	\$300.00	200.00	378
Total			\$ 1,400.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	

***Explanation**

378 The maximum amount for this benefit has been paid. The remaining portion is not eligible for reimbursement.

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Example #2: Cost-share client purchased one hearing aid that costs LESS than \$1200

Health claim summary

Total amount claimed	\$1,000.00
AADL will pay	\$750.00
Patient will pay	\$250.00

Details

Each claim you submit is assessed according to the benefit rules under the Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program.

Patient:

Provider: Professional Audiology Clinic Ltd

Service date (YYYY/MM/DD)	Product or service	Practitioner	Claimed amount	AADL contribution	Patient cost share portion	Patient upgrade charge	Explanation number*
2022/08/17	Behind-the-ear hearing aid		1,000.00	750.00	250.00	0.00	
Total			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00	

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Example #3: Cost share client purchased one hearing aid that costs MORE than \$1200; however maximum \$500 contribution has been reached

Health claim summary

Total amount claimed	\$1,400.00
AADL will pay	\$1,200.00
Patient will pay	\$200.00

Details

Each claim you submit is assessed according to the benefit rules under the Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program.

Patient: Professional Audiology Clinic Ltd

Service date (YYYYMMDD)	Product or service	Practitioner	Claimed amount	AADL contribution	Patient cost share portion	Patient upgrade charge	Explanation number*
2022/08/17	Behind-the-ear hearing aid		1,400.00	1,200.00	6.00	200.00	378
Total			\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 200.00	

***Explanations**

078 The maximum amount for this benefit has been paid. The remaining portion is not eligible for reimbursement.

Please retain for your records



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Example #4: Cost share pediatric client purchased two hearing aids that costs MORE than \$650; 2 earmolds and one FM system that cost more than \$1900, resulting in maximum \$500 contribution has been reached plus upgrades

Health claim summary

Total amount claimed	\$4,640.00
AADL will pay	\$2,840.00
Patient will pay	\$1,800.00

Details

Each claim you submit is assessed according to the benefit rules under the Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program.

Patient: Professional Audiology Clinic Ltd

Service date (YYYYMMDD)	Product or service	Practitioner	Claimed amount	AADL contribution	Patient cost share portion	Patient upgrade charge	Explanation number*
2022/08/29	Behind-the-ear hearing aid		1,000.00	487.50	162.50	350.00	378
2022/08/29	Behind-the-ear hearing aid		1,000.00	487.50	162.50	350.00	378
2022/08/29	Pediatric Earmold		70.00	52.50	17.50	0.00	
2022/08/29	Pediatric Earmold		70.00	52.50	17.50	0.00	
2022/08/29	FM/AT System		2,500.00	1,760.00	140.00	600.00	378
Total			\$4,640.00	\$2,840.00	\$500.00	\$1,300.00	

***Explanations**

378 The maximum amount for this benefit has been paid. The remaining portion is not eligible for reimbursement.



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Summary

- In Module 2.8.1 we discussed the following:
 1. How to access the training modules for the AADL program and amplification benefits area
 2. General eligibility criteria for the AADL program
 3. Specific eligibility criteria for amplification benefits
 4. Cost-share and cost-share exemption criteria and how the special needs assistance program for seniors pertains to amplification benefits.
- In Module 2.8.2 we will discuss the following:
 1. Provider Roles and Responsibilities
 2. Approved Product List (APL): Amplification Benefits
 3. Fitting and Verification of Amplification Devices
 4. Quantity and Frequency Requests (QFRs)



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