

**What kind of communication aids are covered by the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)?**

ADP funding assistance is available for:

- communication display boards
- electrolarynges
- speech generating devices
- voice amplifiers
- voice restoration and speaking valves
- writing aids
- adaptive devices to help people access writing and speech aids

ADP contributes to the cost of the most basic equipment required to enhance or replace oral and/or written communication to perform activities of daily living as defined by ADP for funding purposes.

**What kind of communication aids are not covered by (ADP)?**

- communication aids used only for one purpose such as school, work, sports, recreation, or social activities
- environmental control units/devices
- items purchased outside of Ontario
- regular or adaptive telephones
- used equipment, unless the equipment is from an ADP authorized equipment pool

**Who can apply?**

Anyone with a long-term physical disability who requires the use of a communication aid for six months or longer. You must be eligible for Ontario Health Insurance and have a valid Health Card in your name.

ADP does not pay for equipment available under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board or to Group 'A' veterans for their pensioned conditions.

**How do I apply?**

An ADP-registered authorizer will complete an assessment to determine if you are eligible to apply for ADP funding. This authorizer will also identify the device to best meet your needs.

Eligibility for ADP funding assistance is based on established policies. If you are determined eligible the authorizer will complete the applicable sections of the Application for Funding Communication Aids form.

**Who authorizes my communication aid?**

If you cannot speak or your speech is very hard to understand, you need to see a speech-language pathologist registered with ADP as an authorizer.

If you cannot write, you need to see an occupational therapist registered with ADP as an authorizer.

If you require a high technology speech generating device, a specialized computer system or a communication display board, you need to go to an ADP designated communication clinic for an assessment .

## **When does a physician or nurse practitioner have to sign my application form?**

First time applicants must be seen by a physician or nurse practitioner. The physician or nurse practitioner will confirm your need for a communication aid and complete the applicable sections of the Application for Funding Communication Aids form. The physician or nurse practitioner may refer you to an authorizer registered with ADP if you haven't already been referred to one.

## **Do I sign my application form?**

You are required to sign the application form. If you are unable to sign, someone who has the legal authority to act on your behalf may do so. This may be your spouse, parent, child, power of attorney, or public trustee.

## **What if I am not eligible for ADP funding assistance?**

If you need a communication aid but are not eligible for ADP funding assistance, your insurance company may pay for it. If you do not have insurance, you may want to consider buying reconditioned equipment. Agencies, such as the March of Dimes, Easter Seals Society, and community service groups may help.

## **Where can I get my communication aid?**

If your medical condition is changing and you are eligible for high technology aids, you can lease some communication aids from an ADP designated communication clinic. You pay an annual lease fee. In other situations, communication aids must be purchased through a vendor registered with ADP.

You may buy the equipment from an Ontario vendor who is not registered with ADP when:

- you require high technology equipment, and there is no registered vendor in your community within 100km
- you require a computer, monitor, and printer
- you require voice restoration and speaking valves

If you purchase a communication aid from a non-registered vendor, you must pay the vendor for the full cost of the purchase. The cost of the communication aid cannot be more than the ADP approved price. Then you must submit the completed Application for Funding Communication Aids form, within one year from the authorizer assessment date, to:

Ministry of Health  
Assistive Devices Program  
5700 Yonge Street 7th floor  
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Applications received after one year from the authorizer assessment date are considered stale dated and will not be processed.

Once your application has been processed at the ADP, you'll receive a letter with information about the status of the application and the number you must use for invoicing purposes. If the application has been approved, you can send the fully itemized invoice(s), indicating "paid in full" together with a copy of the letter to:

Ministry of Health  
Financial Management Branch  
Program Payments  
PO Box 48  
49 Place D'Armes 2nd Floor  
Kingston ON K7L 5J3

The ADP will then reimburse you directly for the eligible funding amount.

## **Who do I call if I have problems with my communication aid?**

If you have any problems with your new communication aid, please contact your authorizer and vendor, and/or ADP designated communication clinic, as applicable.

## Does ADP pay for repairs?

ADP does not pay for repairs and maintenance (leased devices excepted). You own the equipment and are responsible for taking care of it.

## How much money does ADP contribute?

ADP pays 75 per cent of the ADP approved price of the device. You pay 25 per cent. If you are receiving social assistance benefits under Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) at the time the device is authorized, ADP will pay 100 per cent of the ADP approved price.

For voice restoration and speaking valves, ADP pays 75 per cent of the vendor's price up to a maximum amount over a three year period. You pay the difference.

If you are receiving social assistance benefits under OW, ODSP or ACSD, at the time the voice restoration and speaking valves are authorized, ADP will pay 100 per cent of the vendor's price up to a maximum amount over a three year period.

## Does this mean that ADP will pay 100% of my costs for equipment?

Not necessarily. You must pay the vendor directly for any non ADP funded options you may choose to purchase for your equipment. Be sure to ask your vendor how much of the total cost you will be responsible for.

## What if I need to replace my equipment?

Each type of communication aid has its own designated funding period. ADP may contribute to the cost of a new communication aid before or after the designated funding period has passed, if:

- your medical condition has changed such that the current device is no longer meeting your basic needs, or,
- your old device has worn out

When you apply for a new communication aid because of a change in medical condition, you are required to see your physician or nurse practitioner who will confirm the change in medical condition and complete the applicable sections of the Application for Funding Communication Aids form.

ADP does not pay for replacement if the original equipment is lost, stolen or damaged due to misuse. We encourage you to buy insurance to cover these situations.

## What if I have more questions about ADP?

Contact us at:

Ministry of Health  
Assistive Devices Program  
5700 Yonge Street 7th floor  
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Telephone 416-327-8804

Toll Free 1-800-268-6021

TTY 416-327-4282

TTY Toll Free 1-800-387-5559

Fax 416-327-8192

Email [adp@ontario.ca](mailto:adp@ontario.ca)

**OR**

visit our website at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/adp](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/adp)