

Chapter 8: Health Benefits
(iii) Medical Equipment and Supplies

Intent:	To provide a brief description of the medical equipment and supplies which are available through the Department of Health & Community Services for both Income Support applicants and recipients.
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	N/A
Overview: (if applicable)	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) provides medical equipment and supplies to eligible persons with chronic medical/health conditions. The medical equipment program is administered by the Eastern Regional Health Authority for the entire province. The provision of medical supplies is administered by each individual Regional Health Authority. • HCS also provides Orthotics and Prosthetics. Please see policy on Support Programs Available through Regional Health Authorities for further information.
Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All requests are reviewed in accordance with specific guidelines outlined by the Special Assistance Division. These guidelines may involve specific brands of items as well as specify maximum quantities which will be approved. For some items, the program will arrange leasing as opposed to outright purchase. • Recipients of Income Support are eligible to receive these benefits with no contribution required but are required to have a prescription or supporting medical documentation for the requested item. • Eligibility for non-Income Support recipients relating to these programs is determined through a financial assessment through the Regional Health Authorities. • If clients present with a prescription for an item not known to be covered, contact should be made with the Special Assistance Program to determine if this will be a covered benefit. Departmental staff should not approve health items

	<p>for payment which are not considered as required/beneficial by HCS.</p>
<p>Procedure:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Income Support recipients, an Authorization for Health Benefits must be completed and sent to the Special Assistance program along with the necessary medical documentation. • Residents of the province who are not in receipt of Income Support benefits requesting financial assistance with these items should be referred to their local Regional Health Authority where a financial assessment will be completed. • It is the responsibility of the Special Assistance Program to provide the results of their assessment to the recipient as well as to arrange approval for the provision of the item to their established providers. • In no circumstances should CSO's issue approval to pay for these items, as reimbursement of costs is not possible and will not be approved by HCS. • All authorizations for medical equipment & supplies have an expiry date. In an effort to ensure that clients are not without their equipment/supplies, the Regional Health Authorities may compile a list of expiry dates for clients and forward them to the local office to be KIV'd. They must be reviewed by the CSO to ensure that either a new authorization is approved to extend the expiry date or that the approval is terminated.
<p>Authority Level:</p>	<p>Client Services Officer</p>
<p>Date revised:</p>	<p>September 4, 2018</p>