

Chapter 8: Health Benefits –

(v) Support Programs Available through Regional Health Authorities

Intent:	To provide information on the additional support programs available from the Department of Health and Community Services to residents of the Province that are delivered through Regional Health Authorities.
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	N/A
Overview: (if applicable)	<p>The Special Assistance Program (SAP), a division of the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS), administers a number of support programs. While some are universal, all are free to recipients of Income Support benefits.</p> <p>(A) Artificial Eye Program</p> <p>The Artificial Eye Program is offered under the SAP and administered by individual Regional Health Authorities (RHA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program provides artificial eye(s) to residents of NL who have had an eye(s) removed as the result of accident or malignancy. • There is universal coverage for the first artificial eye for adults and children. • Universal coverage also exists for individuals up to 18 years of age for a second artificial eye. After 18 years of age, active Income Support clients are financially eligible, but those who are not in receipt of Income Support who request these services must be referred to the (RHA) for a financial assessment. <p>(B) Cystic Fibrosis Program</p> <p>This program is offered under the Pharmaceutical Services Division of HCS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a universal program that provides drugs, appliances and dietary supplements to all residents in NL who have Cystic Fibrosis.

(C) Food Distribution Program

This program is administered by the Eastern RHA for all residents of NL.

- The program provides dietary supplements to persons having specific metabolic disorders as determined by a specialist. All requests are reviewed in accordance with specific guidelines outlined by the SAP.
- There is universal coverage to all residents under 18 years of age in NL.
- Coverage for residents over 18 years of age is based on financial need; however, individuals receiving Income Support benefits are financially eligible. Individuals not in receipt of Income Support benefits must be referred to the RHA for a financial assessment.

(D) Medical Gases/Respiratory Therapy Program

This program is covered under the SAP and administered by each individual RHA.

- The program provides oxygen equipment and supplies, as prescribed by a medical specialist, for home oxygen therapy treatment to recipients who have been diagnosed with specific chronic conditions outlined by the Special Assistance Program such as Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COLD).
- Individuals in receipt of Income Support benefits are financially eligible; however, non-recipients requesting this coverage must be referred to the RHA for a financial assessment.

(E) Orthotic Supplies/Prosthetics

The program provides funding for orthotic supplies and prosthetics, as prescribed by the appropriate health care professional.

- Prosthetics and orthotic supplies are covered under the SAP and administered by each individual RHA.
 - Clients in receipt of Income Support benefits are financially eligible for both orthotics and prosthetics.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For non-Income Support clients, financial assessments for prosthetics are completed by this Department. Assessments for orthotic supplies are completed by each RHA. A financial contribution towards these items may be required for individuals not in receipt of Income Support benefits. All requests for prosthetics and orthotics are reviewed in accordance with specific guidelines outlined by the SAP of the HCS. <p>(F) Synthetic Growth Hormone Program</p> <p>This is a universal program that provides medications and supplies as prescribed by a specialist for children and adults diagnosed with growth hormone deficiencies.</p>
Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAP of the HCS has an established procedure for supplying items required under the above noted programs. The place of residence for the applicant/client is a determining factor in deciding which RHA will deliver the services. The Client Services Officer must submit an Authorization for Health Benefits to the SAP on behalf of Income Support recipients, specifying the service required and the duration of approval.
Procedure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For current Income Support clients, this Department will submit an Authorization for Health Benefits to the SAP, with the original prescription/medical documentation attached. Non-Income Support clients who request prosthetics will undergo a financial assessment by this Department. Requests for other benefits noted in this policy, including orthotics, must be referred to the appropriate RHA for a financial assessment.
Authority Level:	Client Services Officer
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