

# Funding for mobility aids from the Assistive Devices Program



If you need a walker or a wheelchair after an illness or injury, you may be wondering how you can afford to buy one. The Ontario government has a program to help you with some of these costs. This is called the Assistive Devices Program (ADP).



## What equipment does it cover?

- wheelchairs and special cushions
- wheeled walkers and forearm crutches



## How much does it pay for?

It pays up to 75% of the cost of many items. For example, if your wheelchair costs \$4,000, ADP will pay \$3,000 and you will pay \$1,000. For some items the program pays a set amount.

## Who can apply?

- you are a resident of Ontario with a valid Health Card
- you have a physical disability
- you need an assistive device for daily use for at least 6 months

You must have certain medical problems to get funding for certain devices. Talk to your therapist about what you qualify for.

Please visit the UHN Patient Education website for more health information: [www.uhnpatienteducation.ca](http://www.uhnpatienteducation.ca)  
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## **What is the process?**

1. Choose a vendor.
2. Your team will help you choose a walking aid or wheelchair to trial. Use it for a trial period and decide what works for you.
3. Get a price quote from your vendor and pay your portion (usually 25% plus anything not covered by ADP).
4. Your therapist will fill in the ADP application. They will ask you to sign it before sending it in.

ADP may take several months to approve funding for the equipment. It may also take up to 2 months to build and ship your sale wheelchair. Once you pay your client portion, vendors may give you a loan wheelchair free of charge. But, in some cases you may need to rent a wheelchair until your sale wheelchair arrives. If you have any problems with your new wheelchair please contact your therapist or vendor right away.

## **What if I need power positioning (like tilt or recline)?**

If you need a power wheelchair with power positioning (to tilt, recline or raise leg rests), you must get it from the Centralized Equipment Pool. This is a recycling program run by Motion Specialties. Their phone number is 416 701 1351 and their email address is [cep@motionspecialties.com](mailto:cep@motionspecialties.com).

## **What if I need to change my device?**

If your equipment is no longer working for you, the ADP may pay up to 75% of the cost to replace it. A qualified therapist will need to complete a full assessment and fill in the ADP application form to explain the reasons. This may be because of a change in your condition, size, or if the device is worn out or broken beyond repair. ADP does not provide funding for used equipment, repairs or maintenance.

## **What if I can't pay my share of the cost?**

Other groups may be able to help. Some examples are: the Easter Seal Society or the March of Dimes.

ADP will pay 100% of the costs if you receive benefits from:

- Ontario Works (OW)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Some insurance programs may also cover your share of the cost. Check your insurance policy.

## **What if I get benefits from Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) or Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)?**

ADP does not pay for equipment for people who receive these benefits. You need to apply to WSIB or DVA for help with these costs.

## **Where can I find out more?**

For more information, contact the **Assistive Device Program**:

Phone: 416 327 8804 or 1 800 268 6021

Website: [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/adp/adp\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/adp/adp_mn.html)

University Health Network tries to keep patient education materials up to date, but some information may change. Please contact any agencies that may be listed to make sure the information is correct or to find out more about their services.

Adapted from:

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