

RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT PROGRAM UPDATES - CPAP

Coverage for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines is being revised as announced on Sept. 13, 2017:

Effective October 1, 2017: Patients will have access to the loan of a CPAP machine through the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) Respiratory Equipment Program for a program fee of \$275. The loan of a CPAP machine will include repairs as needed during the useful life of the machine.

Individuals with coverage under Supplementary Health Benefits and Family Health Benefits will continue to have access to the free loan and maintenance of CPAP machines and full coverage of related supplies, such as mask, headgear, tubing, and filters.

For more information contact the SAIL, Respiratory Equipment Program at 306-787-7121 or 1-888-787-8996.

What is a CPAP machine?

CPAP machines are flow generators used primarily in treatment for patients suffering from sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is a common sleep disorder where an individual has one or more pauses in breathing or shallow breaths while they sleep.

What is changing with CPAP machines benefits through the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program?

The free loan of CPAP machines will no longer be universally provided. Starting Oct. 1, 2017, patients will be charged a program fee of \$275 that will cover the loan of the CPAP machine and repairs as needed for the useful life of the machine, which is defined as five years.

Currently, the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program provides the free loan of CPAP, Bi-level, and auto-CPAP (APAP) flow generators as a universal benefit to Saskatchewan beneficiaries. After Oct. 1, 2017, only bi-level and APAP flow generators will be available as a universal benefit.

When is this change happening?

This change is effective Oct. 1, 2017. The last day beneficiaries will have access to the free loan of CPAP machines as a universal benefit is September 30, 2017.

I have Supplementary Health Benefits? Will I still have access to the free loan of a CPAP machine?

The free loan, ongoing maintenance and replacement of CPAP machines and coverage for related supplies will continue to be available as a Supplementary Health Benefit (SHB – adults and children) and Family Health Benefit (FHB – children).

For those who are eligible for these benefits, access to loaned equipment and ongoing maintenance will continue to be available through the SAIL Respiratory Benefit Depot at Saskatoon City Hospital. Related supplies are available through approved suppliers (e.g.: O2 companies).

I currently have a CPAP machine through the Respiratory Equipment Program. How will this change affect me?

Your CPAP machine continues to be a loaned device through the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program and will continue to be repaired as needed for the useful life of the machine, which is defined as five years. You may continue to use the machine at no charge for as long as the machine remains in good working order.

Those who currently have CPAP machines will not be required to pay a program fee until a replacement machine is required.

I have a CPAP machine but would like to get a second machine. Can I pay the \$275 program fee to receive one?

No. Individuals are limited to one CPAP machine at a time through the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program.

I currently have a CPAP machine through the SAIL program and understood that scheduled maintenance would be performed at five years. Is this still the case?

No. Scheduled maintenance will no longer be performed on machines at five years. With the revisions to the program, the useful life of a machine has been defined as five years. You can continue to use the machine beyond five years, but if it requires repair or replacement, you will be responsible for the cost of the repair or can get a new machine through the SAIL program for a \$275 program fee.

What if my CPAP machine requires repair before five years? Will this be covered?

If a machine requires repair prior to five years of use as the result of a manufacturer defect or a reason that was beyond the control of the client, it will be repaired or replaced at no charge.

Repairs for a CPAP that is damaged due to client misuse or neglect is the responsibility of the client. The client can decide if they would like to pay for the actual cost of repairs and labour or replace their machine for a \$275 program fee.

I have a CPAP machine through SAIL that still works, but I would like to exchange it for a new machine. Can I pay the \$275 program fee to receive a new machine?

Clients are asked to keep their existing machine until it is no longer in good working order and requires repair or replacement.

How can I access a CPAP, a BiLevel, or an APAP machine?

If you suspect that you have sleep apnea, you are encouraged to work with your physician to be referred to a respirologist or sleep disorders centre for further testing. If it is determined that CPAP therapy is an appropriate treatment for your condition, your physician will prescribe the appropriate machine and will advise you on how to access the equipment.

Do I need to pay the \$275 program fee before I receive the CPAP machine? Are payment plans available?

Payment will be required before the CPAP machine is provided. At this time payment plans are not available.

Where do I pay for my machine?

You will be able to make payment when you receive your machine in person at the SAIL Respiratory Benefits Depot (Saskatoon City Hospital) or Regina Sleep Disorders Centre (Regina General Hospital).

Can a CPAP machine be shipped to me if my prescription is sent in by my respirologist and/or private oxygen company?

Yes, CPAP machines will continue to be shipped as long as payment information is provided with the request. A payment authorization section has been added to the CPAP requisition form and should be completed and submitted along with your prescription.

Is the \$275 program fee refundable if I decide I no longer require the CPAP machine?

No, the program fee to loan a CPAP machine is not refundable.

Will this program fee be covered by private insurance?

Individuals may contact their private insurer or group benefits administrator directly to see if these machines are a benefit under their policy.