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Memorandum

To: Local Health Integration Networks
Hospitals
Community Care Access Centres (CCAC)
Family Health Teams (FHT)

From: Susan Picarello,
Director, Assistive Devices Program
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Date: February 1, 2016

Subject: Short Term Home Oxygen Therapy /Expanded Role for Registered Respiratory Therapists

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) is pleased to announce that on **March 1, 2016** the program will implement two changes that will benefit Ontario residents who need ADP-funded home oxygen therapy.

1. Funding for Short-Term Home Oxygen Therapy

The ADP provides funding for individuals who meet the program's medical eligibility criteria for home oxygen therapy and where the need for home oxygen therapy is long-term (applicant's condition is stable and treatment regimen is optimized).

On **March 1, 2016**, the ADP will begin funding short-term home oxygen therapy for individuals who meet the program's current medical eligibility criteria for home oxygen therapy but, based on the prescriber's assessment, the need for home oxygen therapy is short-term (applicant's condition is acute and treatment regimen is not optimized).

Funding for short-term home oxygen therapy is **only available** to individuals who:

- are inpatients in the hospital or in the emergency department;
- demonstrate hypoxemia at rest; and
- can be discharged home with short-term oxygen therapy.

Funding for short-term home oxygen therapy will be available for up to 60 days. At the end of the 60-day funding period, if the client continues to demonstrate a medical need for home oxygen therapy, the client

can apply for an additional 30-day funding period for short-term home oxygen therapy or for long-term home oxygen therapy.

Clients applying for additional funding must meet the medical eligibility criteria for short-term home oxygen therapy or long-term home oxygen therapy.

Enclosed you will find an information flyer. The ADP is asking that you post the flyer throughout your hospital, CCAC or FHT. If required, additional copies are available through the ADP website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/adp/default.aspx>.

2. Expanded Role of Registered Respiratory Therapists

The ADP is expanding the role of hospital-based and community-based Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) in the process to fund home oxygen therapy for Ontario residents who:

- are being discharged home from an acute or chronic care hospital, or are clients of a CCAC or a FHT;
- need oxygen therapy in the home; and
- are requesting ADP-funded home oxygen therapy for the first time.

In their expanded role, when a physician or nurse practitioner prescribes home oxygen therapy, the hospital-based or community-based RRT can complete the Application for Funding Home Oxygen in place of the prescriber by:

- transcribing the applicant's diagnosis;
- confirming the applicant has tried other treatment measures without success; and
- confirming that oxygen therapy is medically indicated, and is reasonable and necessary.

To participate in the expanded role, the hospital-based or community-based RRT must meet the following criteria at the time he/she assesses the applicant:

- hold a valid certificate of registration from the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO);
- be employed at:
 - an acute or chronic care hospital;
 - a CCAC; or
 - a Family Health Team; and
- **not be employed** by a Vendor of Record for Home Oxygen Services.

More information on the expanded role of RRTs is available at the ADP website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/adp/default.aspx> and the CRTO website at <http://www.crto.on.ca/members/professional-practice/adp-home-oxygen-program-2/>.

If you require additional information or have questions concerning any of these changes, please contact Maureen Williams, Senior Program Coordinator. You can reach Ms. Williams at maureen.williams@ontario.ca or 416 327-7368 or 1-800-268-6021, extension 7-7368.

(original signed by)

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Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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