

Assistive Devices Program
5700 Yonge Street, 7th Floor
Toronto ON M2M 4K5
www.health.gov.on.ca/adp

Programme d'appareils et accessoires fonctionnels
5700, rue Yonge, 7^e étage
Toronto (ON) M2M 4K5
www.health.gov.on.ca/paaf

Tel.: 416-327-8804
Fax.: 416-327-8192
Toll Free: 1-800-268-6021
TTY: 416-327-4282
TTY: 1-800-387-5559
E-mail: adp@ontario.ca

Tél. : 416-327-8804
Télééc. : 416-327-8192
Sans frais: 1-800-268-6021
ATS : 416-327-4282
ATS : 1-800-387-5559
Courriel: adp@ontario.ca

Memorandum

To: ADP-Registered Authorizers and Vendors

From: David Schachow, Interim Director, Assistive Devices Program

Date: June 2, 2020

Subject: **COVID-19 Pandemic – Virtual Assessments**

The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario has issued a revised “Directive #2 for Health Care Providers (Regulated Health Professionals or Persons who operate a Group Practice of Regulated Health Professionals)”.

The full text of the Directive can be found here:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/RHPA_professionals.pdf

The updated Directive stipulates:

Subject to the requirements of this Directive, Health Care Providers are in the best position to determine which services should continue to be provided remotely (online, by telephone or other virtual means) and which should be provided in-person. This should be guided by best clinical evidence. Health Care Providers must also adhere to the guidance principles provides by their applicable health regulatory college and [four] principles

In response to the evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and to align with the revised Directive #2 for Health Care Providers, the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) is making temporary changes regarding current requirements to perform certain assessments “in person”.

Effective the date of this memorandum, the ADP will accept virtual assessments by ADP-registered authorizers.

As a health professional, an ADP-registered authorizer must make a clinical decision on whether a virtual assessment is feasible, safe and suitable in the specific circumstances of the applicant and complies with Directive #2.

All ADP-registered authorizers who are also members of a regulated health college and/or professional association should also be aware of any additional requirements imposed by their respective regulatory college and/or professional association. Members of regulatory colleges may be subject to additional requirements under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, as well as any other applicable health profession-specific legislation and/or regulations. It is recommended that ADP-registered authorizers confirm with their regulatory colleges, if applicable, the appropriateness of performing virtual assessments.

ADP-registered authorizers must also ensure compliance with other requirements, including Chief Medical Officer of Health directives, government directives, and orders made pursuant to the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, when performing a virtual assessment.

The roles and responsibilities of the ADP-registered authorizers have not changed. The purpose of an ADP-registered authorizer assessment is still to determine the applicant's disability and possible equipment needs and apply to the ADP for a device for which the client meets the eligibility criteria. Assessments cannot be delegated to another professional or support staff.

The Ministry will notify ADP-registered authorizers when this temporary measure is no longer permitted.

All questions related to this memorandum should be sent to: adpauthorizers@ontario.ca. Guidance **cannot** be provided on questions regarding whether it is appropriate in a specific situation to perform a virtual assessment.

Thank you for your continued commitment and service to Ontarians during this pandemic.

(original signed by)

David Schachow