

Subject: Assistive Devices	Doc ID #: ADM-AODA-IAS-02
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Category: Customer Service Standard	Page: 1 of 3
Reviewed by: DQRSS	Next review date: September 1, 2025
Approved by: CEO	Approved Date: September 1, 2023

1. PURPOSE:

This policy is intended to meet the requirements for assistive devices in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, Integrated Accessibility Standards 191/11 and all related standards and regulations introduced under this legislation, ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided equal opportunities and standards of service.

Assistive devices include specialized aids and devices that enable people with disabilities to carry out their everyday activities.

Assistive Devices include but are not limited to:

Physical assistive devices	cane, walker, wheelchair, electric scooters, grasping devices
Communicative Devices	hearing devices, laptop computers, personal data assistant (PDA), cell phones
Visual Aids	magnification devices, Braille devices, white canes, glasses
Medical Assistive Devices	personal oxygen tanks

2. SCOPE:

This policy applies to ALL Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital's Employees, Board Members, students, volunteers, contractors and affiliates.

3. POLICY

The Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital is committed to:

- Promoting, providing and maintaining an environment where respect, independence, and dignity are demonstrated at all times.
- Respecting and accommodating the right of the individual to use a personal assistive device while accessing goods and services provided by the hospital.

Note:

There may be areas or situations identified when the use of the personal assistive device is not compatible with the protocol, procedure, circumstances, physical space available or equipment required to provide the service. In these circumstances collaboration will occur with the user of the personal assistive device to achieve an optimal solution. *(see policy on patient-owned electrical equipment in the hospital)*

- Any patient admitted to Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital, who requires the use of a Power Mobility Device (PMD) with a battery charger, must follow safety requirements.
- Staff will attempt to keep the personal assistive device accessible to the user whenever possible.
- Any adverse events resulting from the use or misuse of the personal assistive device are to be reported immediately through the on-line incident reporting system if either a patient, staff member or visitor is involved.

4. PROCEDURE

Patient Owned Assistive Device(s):

A patient's assistive device(s) will remain with the patient at **ALL** times except where there is a requirement for exclusion of said device:

- due to infection control risk
- due to risk of harm to the device and/or individuals
- due to privacy issues

In these instances, the Manager and staff will work with the person with the assistive device to arrange for alternative support in the event the assistive device is unable to stay with the patient.

- Personal assistive devices must be clearly identified as belonging to their owner and must be documented on the patient's Kardex.
- **Care and maintenance:**
 - Care and maintenance of personal assistive device is the responsibility of the individual who uses the device. A family member, friend or volunteer may be necessary to assist with the care and use of the patient's personal assistive device depending on the circumstances.
 - If a patient is required to be moved somewhere in the hospital where the use or presence of the personal assistive device would be inappropriate or unwise, family will be asked to take the device home until such time as it may be used again.
 - It is the responsibility of the person using the personal assistive device to ensure it is safe to use and that using it will not endanger others. If a concern is raised regarding the unsafe use of the personal assistive device it must be addressed immediately, either by the patient if they are capable of doing so or by others in removing or replacing the personal assistive device.
 - Personal assistive devices that require the use of electrical power must be checked by the hospital's maintenance staff prior to use to ensure they meet CSA standards.

Patient Owned Assistive Device(s):

- It should be identified on the patient's kardex at the time of admission if the patient requires the use of any personal assistive devices.
- Signage may be used to alert others of the use of a personal assistive device with the client's permission.

Hospital Owned Assistive Device(s):

- Where applicable, assistive devices owned and operated by the Hospital (items such as walkers, wheelchairs) will be available for use by persons with disabilities. The hospital will make reasonable efforts to ensure that staff is aware of and trained in assistive devices available at the hospital.
- It should be identified on the patient's kardex at the time of admission if the patient requires the use of any personal assistive devices.
- Signage may be used to alert others of the use of a personal assistive device with the client's permission.
- Staff are to contact the maintenance department if they notice any hospital-owned assistive devices that requires repair or the housekeeping department if they notice any hospital-owned assistive devices that requires cleaning.

5. RESOURCES:

LEGISLATION

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 ONTARIO REGULATION 191/11

Integrated Accessibility Standards

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/110191?search=accessibility>

Blind Persons' Rights Act. R.S., c. 40, s. 1

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/statutes/blindper.htm>