

For more information contact:

The Assistive Devices Program

Government of Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care 416-327 -
8804

ALL ABOUT ASSISTIVE DEVICES



Did you know?



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Cannifton, Ontario
2007

Communication aids:

These devices assist with writing, reading, speaking and hearing, communicating on the telephone and watching television. Communication aids also include emergency response systems.

Cognition aids:

These are devices that help a person to remember or learn new things such as turn-on/turn-off timers, illustrative calendars, tape-recorded books and newspapers.

Personal care aids:

These are devices to assist with personal grooming including: washing, bathing, showering, dressing/undressing and toileting or managing incontinence.

Personal mobility aids:

These are devices to help with walking, transferring, turning, lifting and climbing stairs. Personal mobility aids also include wheelchairs. Bikes, scooters and modified vehicles.

Where do I start?

The first step is to identify that an assistive device may be helpful. It can be an individual or family member, a family doctor, health care provider or hospital staff who takes the initiative to begin the process.

Many local pharmacies and medical supply stores carry assistive devices and have professional staff to assist in assessing need and requirements. These stores can be found in the Yellow Pages under "Medical Supplies."

If financial assistance is required to cover the expense of the assistive device, the Assistive Devices Program (ADP), through the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, may cover a portion of the cost depending on the specific item or equipment. The ADP program requires that the applicant have a valid Ontario Health Card and that an assessment of the individual be completed by a registered therapist. Also, the therapist, family doctor and vendor must complete an application form. The Assistive Devices Program can provide you with more information on finding registered therapists and vendors as well as estimated costs.

Complementary solutions

There are several options available to enhance ease and independence, such as physical therapy and rehabilitation. Both of these can increase physical abilities, strength and balance. You may wish to discuss these or other options with your family doctor. Another solution might include changing your environment to make it safer and more manageable. For example, some chairs may be more difficult to lift up from than others.

It is recommended that an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist be consulted prior to making any changes to your environment.

Attitude towards using assistive devices

The use of assistive devices has helped many seniors enhance their independence and improve their daily lives. It may be difficult for you to accept that an assistive device is now necessary for you to complete daily activities. It is important to share these feelings with family, friends or health care providers as these feelings may have an impact on self-confidence and the ability to benefit from the use of assistive devices.