
Alberta Health

**Alberta Aids to Daily Living
Burn Garments Benefits
Policy & Procedures Manual**

June 21, 2021

Classification: Public



Revision History

Description	Date
Updated throughout to reflect the transition to Alberta Blue Cross	June 21, 2021
Updated links	April 1, 2019
Policy J-04: Fitters requirements updated	July 1, 2017

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Policy J – 01

Burn Garment Benefits Description

Policy Statement

AADL provides funding for burn garment benefits for AADL clients with documented risk of a post-burn contracture to help these individuals be independent in activities of daily living.

Best practice supports the application of 25mmHG pressure on active scars as a component of rehabilitation to achieve optimal functional outcomes.

AADL burn garment benefits include base pressure garments and features. Base pressure garments are intended to provide pressure on active scars. Features are added to the base garment to accommodate body contours and ensure the recommended pressure is maintained on the scar.

Policy J – 02

Eligibility Criteria – Burn Garment Benefits

Policy Statement

The Eligibility Criteria Policy assists clients, guardians, authorizers and vendors in identifying eligibility to access burn garment benefits.

Clients must meet general eligibility requirements found in AADL General Policies and Procedures on-line at:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-gn>.

A client's eligibility for burn garment benefits must be determined by an AADL Authorizer prior to authorization.

AADL provides funding for burn garment benefits for clients who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Client has long-term active scar processes related to a burn injury;
2. Burn injury is of documented significance to place the client at risk of a post-burn contracture;
3. Burn garments are prescribed by the primary care physician and/or treating specialist (surgeon or physiatrist) unless the authorizer has been provided exempt privileges. See Policy J-03 Authorizer Qualifications for details on burn scar specialist exemption.

AADL will consider funding burn garment benefits on a prior approval basis for clients who:

1. Have necrotizing fasciitis and/or a severe animal bite(s); and
2. Is at risk for contractures(s) due to hypertrophic scarring (HTS); and
3. Meet criterion 3 above.

AADL does NOT provide funding for burn garment benefits for:

- Use in acute or sub-acute care facilities except as part of a discharge plan;
- Short-term interventions;
- Pre- or post-operative use;
- Application or intervention in a physician's office;

- Edema management;
- Skin protection;
- Itchiness relief;
- Cosmetic purposes;
- Clients who have lost or damaged their garment;
- Clients who are non-compliant;
- Clients with the following co-morbidities: severe arterial insufficiency, cutaneous infection, acute hypodermatitis or wet dermatoses; or
- Features chosen for personal preference or not clinically indicated.

AADL provides annual limits on the number of burn garment benefits per eligible client based on current best practice and expected wear. See the Burn Garment Benefit Approved Product List (APL) for specific limits.

Procedure

Authorizers:

1. Confirm client meets AADL eligibility requirements.
2. Confirm client's previous benefit consumption:
 - Refer to the Burn Garment Benefits APL to determine quantity limits for each garment and feature at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-j>
 - Refer to the Alberta Blue Cross Online Health Portal (OHP) patient inquiry screen and review check product consumption to determine benefits the client has received. Refer to Policy J-06 Quantity and Frequency Limits for clients who are over quantity/frequency limit.
3. Inform client of their eligibility status.
4. Have clients sign the client declaration form.
5. Complete the authorization on the OHP and upload the client declaration form and any other required supporting documentation.

Vendors:

1. Check client's previous benefit consumption:
 - Refer to the Burn Garment Benefits APL to determine quantity limits for each garment and feature at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-j>
 - Refer to the Alberta Blue Cross OHP patient inquiry screen for client's benefit consumption history.
 - Refer to Policy J-07 Quantity and Frequency Limits for clients who are over quantity/frequency limit.

Clients:

1. Confirm eligibility with authorizer.
2. Sign client declaration form.

Alberta Blue Cross:

1. Responds to telephone or email requests for information on walking benefits eligibility, and provides reference to the AADL website for further information at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-j>
2. Adjudicates and audits authorizations submitted through the OHP for accuracy and completeness.

Policy J – 03

Authorizer Qualifications – Burn Garment Benefits

Policy Statement

The Authorizer Qualification Policy facilitates accountability and transparency.

AADL accepts applications from existing AADL authorizers only as burn scar garments is a secondary product range. In addition, they must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant has an active AADL authorizer number.
- Applicant is an Occupational Therapist (OT) or Physiotherapist (PT) associated with a Burn Unit/Clinic, Plastics Unit/Clinic or Physiatrist (doctor specialized in rehabilitation).
- Applicant is a Registered Nurse (RN) working with a Burn Unit/Clinic, Plastics Unit/Clinic or Physiatrist and has additional training/education in the area of scar interventions.
- Applicant has completed the AADL authorizer training module for burn garments.

AADL will consider providing prescription exemption privileges to authorizers who meet all the following qualifications:

- Scar management is a major component of practice.
- Ability to determine appropriate burn garment benefit without a physician prescription endorsed in writing by physician associated with a burn/plastic clinic.

Procedure

AADL Authorizer Applicants:

1. Confirm eligibility.
2. Complete Burn Garment Product Range Application Form available at:
<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/aadl/aadl-authorizer-application-burn.pdf>
3. Complete On-line Burn Garment Module on-line at:
<https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-authorizer-information-and-training.aspx>
4. Forward completed application with supporting documentation to AADL.

AADL:

1. Provides authorizer online training module.
2. Reviews application and confirms eligibility to authorize for benefits.
3. Notifies Alberta Blue Cross when authorizers have completed all requirements and meet eligibility criteria.

Policy J – 04

Vendor and Trained Provider Qualifications Policy

Policy Statement

AADL Approved Burn Garment vendors must meet the following criteria:

- Meet AADL’s general vendor criteria as outlined in the General Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Adhere to benchmark pricing as outlined in the General Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Employ at least one full time certified fitter for burn garments.
- Ensure fitters have certification from each manufacturer brand sold by the vendor.
- Ensure certification is updated every three years and that a copy is provided to AADL.

Only one set of burn garments is to be dispensed to the client initially to ensure proper fit.

Policy J – 05

Authorization Process – Burn Garment Benefits

Policy Statement

The authorization process policy promotes effective and efficient authorization of benefits.

Burn garment benefit authorizations are valid when all authorization process steps and requirements have been met. Authorizers must adhere to the general policies and procedures for authorizing AADL benefits.

Assessments for burn garment benefits funded by AADL must be completed and documented by an OT, PT or RN trained in scar interventions/management.

All authorizations related to burn garment benefits must be submitted by an approved AADL Burn Garment Benefit Authorizer.

All authorizations for burn garment benefits have a maximum expiry of two years after the authorization date. Extensions past the two year maximum must be prior approved by the Manager, Medical Surgical Benefits.

Procedure

Authorizers:

1. Confirm client eligibility for benefit. Refer to Policy J-02 Eligibility Criteria – Burn Garment Benefits.
2. Assess client or review assessment if assessor is not the authorizer. Document assessment details and clinical rationale to support the provision of burn garment benefits. This must be kept in the client's file and submitted to AADL upon request.
3. Complete Authorization on the Alberta Blue Cross OHP and include all relevant forms and documentation.

Clients:

1. Fully participate in assessment.
2. Sign client declaration form.

Vendors:

1. View authorization on Alberta Blue Cross OHP to view client's eligibility and consumption.

Alberta Blue Cross:

1. Processes and audits authorizations for completeness and accuracy.

Policy J – 06

Providing Burn Garment Benefits

Policy Statement

The Providing Burn Garment Benefits Policy promotes effective and efficient provision of benefits.

AADL Vendors must have an agreement with AADL and Alberta Blue Cross to provide burn garment benefits.

The provision of burn garment benefits includes measuring the client, manufacturer order submission, fitting the garment(s), documenting, client billing and claims.

Vendors accept measurements from Burn Garment Benefit Fitters. See Policy J-04 Fitter Qualifications.

AADL Vendors can only charge fitting fees when the garment(s) is measured and fitted by a fitter employed by the vendor.

Manufacturers listed in the Approved Product List have been reviewed and accepted by AADL.

AADL does not pay brokerage fees or costs of “RUSH” deliveries.

Procedure

Fitters:

1. Complete manufacturer measurement forms:
 - Measure client in a private location.
 - Complete forms according to manufacturer instruction.
2. Submit measurements to vendor.
3. Receive manufactured burn garment and confirm garment meets specifications prior to booking client for fitting.
4. Fit burn garment. Ensure client/caregiver is able to don and doff the burn garment(s) and are satisfied with fit.
5. Provide verbal and written instructions on burn garment wear and care.

6. Arrange follow-up appointment. Clients must be followed up on a regular basis to ensure the burn garment(s) continues to be of benefit to the client.
7. Complete documentation, including:
 - Client able to don and doff burn garment(s).
 - Client provided with and understands instructions on burn garment(s) wear and care.
 - Client satisfaction with fit.

Vendors:

1. Confirm client eligibility for the benefit by checking client consumption on the Alberta Blue Cross Online Health Portal (OHP).
2. Submit order to manufacturer. Order one burn garment initially; additional garments are ordered once the first garment is deemed an appropriate fit.
3. Receive manufactured garment and confirm garment meets specifications prior to providing garment to fitter.
4. Collects any cost share and upgrade costs on the day the equipment is provided and the claim is submitted.
5. Submit claim on OHP once garment is provided (service date).

Alberta Blue Cross:

1. Adjudicates and pays claim.
2. Conducts audits on vendors' compliance with policy and procedures for quality assurance and accountability purposes.

Policy J – 07

Quantity and Frequency Limits for Burn Garment Benefits

Policy Statement

The Quantity and Frequency Limits for Burn Garment Benefits Policy ensures transparency, consistency and accountability.

AADL sets annual limits on the number of burn garment benefits funded per eligible client based on current best practice and expected wear. See the Approved Product List – Burn Garment Benefits for specific limits at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/aadl-program-manual-j>.

AADL Burn Garment Benefit Authorizers can contact Alberta Blue Cross directly if their client has a clinical need for products that are over the quantity and frequency maximum set out in the Approved Product List. AADL does not accept QFRs to replace garments due to measurement errors by fitters.

Increased quantity limits approved through a QFR are effective for the period of time the corresponding authorization is valid.

Procedure

Authorizers:

1. Explain policy and process to client, ensuring client and/or caregiver understands.
2. Contact Alberta Blue Cross through the provider call center to request over quantity or frequency for the client.

Clients:

1. Pursue alternate funding sources prior to requesting additional funds from AADL.

Alberta Blue Cross:








1. Receives and logs QFR requests.
2. Updates QFR status on the OHP which can then be viewed on the provider portal.
3. Notification of the decision will be sent to the client and authorizer.


















Policy J – 08













Product Information and Specifications for Base Burn Garments

Policy Statement

Product information and specifications provide a consistent description of base burn garments to inform authorizers, vendors and clients.

BASE BURN GARMENTS		
AADL CAT #	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT/SERVICE	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
J005	Vest – sleeveless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes one zipper • Hook and Loop tab to attach vest to lower torso garments optional – no cost added 	
J007	Vest – with sleeve(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes one zipper • Hook and loop tabs to attach vest to lower torso garments are optional - no cost added 	
J010	Face Mask <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes posterior hook and loop closure 	
J012	Chin Strap/Chin Extension Collar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes posterior hook and loop closure 	
J015	Body Brief – sleeveless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes one zipper 	
J017	Body Brief – with sleeve(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes one zipper 	
J020	Body Suit – sleeveless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes one zipper • Legs to above knee 	

BASE BURN GARMENTS		
AADL CAT #	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT/SERVICE	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
J022	Body suit – with sleeves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes one zipper • Legs to above knee 	
J024	Mitten <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has thumb and common cover for digits 	
J025	Interdigital Web Spacer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worn on outside of glove 	
J026	Gauntlet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has thumb and opening for four digits 	
J027	Glove to Wrist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has at least one finger 	
J028	Glove to Elbow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurements 4.5 inches past wrist is required 	
J030	Arm Sleeve – wrist to elbow	
J031	Arm Sleeve (half) with Shoulder Flap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper arm sleeve included 	
J032	Forearm Sleeve with Gauntlet	
J033	Arm Sleeve (full) with Shoulder Flap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full arm sleeve included 	
J034	Arm Sleeve – wrist to axilla	
J036	Arm Sleeve (full) and Gauntlet	
J037	Stump Sock – above knee	
J038	Arm Sleeve – gauntlet to shoulder flap	
J039	Stocking to knee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes foot • Open, soft or self-closed toe 	
J040	Stump Sleeve - to axilla	
J041	Stump Sleeve with Shoulder Flap	

BASE BURN GARMENTS		
AADL CAT #	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT/SERVICE	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
J042	Stump Sock below knee	
J043	Stump Stocking to Waist (2 limbs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One stump/one leg or two stumps 	
J044	Stump Stocking to Waist (1 limb)	
J045	Foot Glove <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two toes are separately closed 	
J046	Anklet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends no more than 4.5 inches above ankle • With or without enclosed toe 	
J047	Stocking to thigh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes foot 	
J050	Panty - girdle style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two legs above knee 	
J051	Panty - brief style	
J052	Stockings - waist height pregnancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two legs • With or without feet 	
J066	Leg Sleeve - ankle to knee	
J067	Leg Sleeve - ankle to thigh	
J069	Stocking – one leg with panty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With or without foot • Closed or open publis 	
J071	Stockings - waist brief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two legs to below knee • With or without feet • Closed, open pubis or chap style 	