

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order #AP2021-0065**

On <date removed>, <name removed> filed an appeal of the Director's decision to deny their funding for a bath lift. The decision letter was dated <date removed>.

The decision letter sent to <name removed> indicated a bath lift was not considered basic and essential.

<name removed> was represented at the hearing by their parents, <name removed>.

The Department told the Board that <name removed>'s occupational therapist submitted a request for a bath lift in <date removed>. The Department contacted the occupational therapist, and after an exchange of information, it was determined that <name removed> was requesting the lift in order to assist them to get in and out of their bath tub independently, the use of which helped them maintain range of motion in their joints. The bath lift was deemed to be therapeutic and not basic and essential to their medical needs.

The Department indicated the occupational therapist can provide additional detail with respect to the basic and essential nature of the bath lift.

<name removed>'s parent indicated the appellant's feet are small, which causes wear in their joints as they support their fully grown body. In addition, <name removed> has low range of motion in their feet, as well as <health conditions removed>.

<name removed>'s parent stated that the appellant soaks in the tub with bath salts on the recommendation of their doctor. The soaking relieves the discomfort in their lower extremities. <name removed>'s parent indicated that either they or their spouse assist the appellant in and out of the tub, however, as the appellant is an adult and this has an adverse impact on their dignity.

<name removed> stated they experience relief when they soak in bath water. The appellant indicated they would like to be able to get in and out of the bath without the assistance of their parents. Neither the Department nor <name removed>'s parent were aware of any other programs which provide bath lifts.

In response to questions from the Board, <name removed>'s parent indicated that the appellant does not receive home care services and that home care does not provide bath lifts.

In response to a question from the Board, <name removed>'s parent indicated the appellant is currently in receipt of the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit, and is no longer receiving assistance.

The Board understands the reasons why <name removed> would like to be independent of their parents when bathing. However, the Board notes that no objective medical information was presented to it that could speak to the medical necessity for <name removed> to use a bath lift. The Board encourages <name removed> to provide the Department with additional medical information with respect to their need for a bath lift, should they become eligible for assistance in the future.

Based on the verbal and written evidence presented to it, the Board determines that there is insufficient information to determine that a bath lift is a basic and essential medical need for <name removed>'s conditions. The Board confirms the Director's decision to deny <name removed> funding for a bath lift.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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