

Extraordinary Medical Assistance Fund ("EMAF")

Under the Canadian Thalidomide Survivors Support Program ("CTSSP"), one million dollars (indexed at 2% per year) is set aside annually in the Extraordinary Medical Assistance Fund to help cover the unique health support costs of Canadian Thalidomide Survivors who require specialized surgeries, health support treatments and/or require changes to their home or vehicle to better accommodate their needs as Thalidomide Survivors.

The Administrator considers any request to the EMAF that is accompanied by receipts or quotations acquired within one year of the date that the EMAF application is submitted to the Administrator. Funding requests for expenses with receipts more than one year old may be considered on an exceptional basis.

Survivors may request funding from the EMAF even if the province or territory in which they reside has a similar program to assist with these expenses; however, Survivors cannot be paid from two different sources for the same expense.

The list of services below is a general list. This list is not all inclusive so if the service you are wishing to receive funding for is not listed, the Administrator encourages you to submit an EMAF application.

List of Potentially Eligible Services

Acupuncture *

Adaptive bicycle/scooter/wheelchairs

Adaptive utensils

Adjustable beds

Air Purifier, but not ongoing supply of replacement filters ()

Alarm clocks and watches for the deaf and hearing impaired

Alerting devices for thalidomide related hearing issues, not aging

Amplified telephone equipment for thalidomide related hearing issues, not aging

Amplifiers for thalidomide related hearing issues, not aging

Assistive listening devices for thalidomide related hearing issues, not aging

Assistive technologies

Attendant care / Home care *

Augmentative communication devices

Automated faucets

Automated hair/hand dryers

Automated interior and exterior doors

Automated toilet or bidet

Automated towel dispensers (replacement towelettes not covered)

Automobile modifications

Bathroom modifications

Bedroom modifications

Bone stimulators

Book holders

Button hooks

Cabinetry and appliances updates/modifications to improve accessibility and independent living

Canes

Chair lifts

Chiropractic treatments *

Commodes

Communication boards

Crutches

Door knob grippers

Dressing sticks

Elastic shoe laces

Electric foldable wheelchairs

Electric tooth brushes

Elevators

Environmental Control Units may be considered depending upon application

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Equipment for short term use may be considered depending upon equipment and application

List of Potentially Eligible Services

Ergonomic sliding drawers

Experimental or research program procedures

Fall-detection devices (but not ongoing service fee if applicable)

Gastric stapling or gastric bypass (stomach stapling) may be considered depending upon application of service

Grab bars

Grasping aids

Hand held showers

Hearing aids due to thalidomide related illness, not aging

Highly specialized examinations

Hip-kits

Home adaptations (e.g. ramps, elevators, porch lifts, chair lifts, kitchen modifications, bathroom adaptations etc.)

Home automation

Interior or exterior ramps

Kitchen modifications

Laundry room modifications

Leg straps

Light automation

Living Room modifications

Long handled shoe horns

Long handled sponges

Magnetic shoe laces

Massage *

Mechanical lift

Modified furniture to accommodate unique needs of Thalidomide Survivors

Motorized window treatments (automated blinds)

Naturopathy *

Nebulizers and nebulizer medication *

Neosonic Hearing Amplifier for the deaf and hearing impaired

Occupational therapy treatments *

Office modifications

Orthotics

Osteopathic Treatments *

Otoplasty (correction of prominent ears)

Oxygen therapy programs

Phone strobe flasher for thalidomide related hearing issues, not aging

Physical Vascular Therapy device

Physiotherapy Treatments *

Post Thalidomide related surgery medications not otherwise covered

Pre-Surgery thalidomide related appointment expenses and supplies

Preventive services and screening tests not supported by evidence of medical effectiveness (for example, whole body CT scans, prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests);

Prosthetic devices or appliances, and artificial limbs

Reachers

Reiki *

Remote control vacuum cleaners

Remote door entry

Rollators

Screen readers

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Service animals accompanied by a health practitioners report (not ongoing care of animal)

Services provided in private non-approved Canadian diagnostic imaging facilities (e.g. MRI, CT, X-ray, etc.)

List of Potentially Eligible Services

Services such as examinations, laboratory tests, x-rays and other procedures related to uninsured services

Signaling Devices for the deaf and hearing impaired

Sock aids

Some health equipment when supported by health practitioner report

Specialized appliances to improve accessibility and independence

Specialized mobility devices (e.g. all terrain wheel chairs, geriatric wheelchairs, back up wheelchairs, scooters, seats on walkers, lift chairs, environmental controls on wheelchairs or an elevated seat in a wheelchair, stand up wheelchairs, tricycles)

Speech generating devices

Stair lifts

Steps for a change table

Telecommunication devices (but not replacement supplies)

Thalidomide related dental reconstructive surgery not otherwise covered

Thalidomide related medical surgeries not otherwise covered

Therapeutic Bath and Thermostat Relocation/Automation

Tilting bath lever

Toilet aids

Transfer boards

Tub/shower chairs and benches

Universal cuff to hold a toothbrush, razor etc.

Updating closet design to make it more accessible

Ventilators

Voice recognition software

Walkers

Wearable call buttons (but not ongoing service fee if applicable)

Wireless Headphones for TV with RF Transmitter for thalidomide related hearing issues, not aging

Writing aids

***Only estimates or receipts from a licensed practitioner will be considered.**

Generally, costs related to ordinary home or vehicle maintenance or wear and tear are not covered by the EMAF. Examples of expenses that may not be covered are routine dental check ups, age-related need for reading glasses, and regular household repairs due to age and deterioration. Requests for funding for the same household modification (e.g. redoing your kitchen) may not be allowed within 5 years of the previous request unless there is an urgent need.

Services which generally are not eligible under the EMAF include, but are not limited to:

Age-related need for glasses

Age-related need for hearing aids or hearing assistive devices

Computer software not related to Thalidomide related injuries (e.g. anti virus protection software)

Equipment related to hobbies or a professional business

Medical expenses related to vacation travel

Postage

Repair of home due to environmental issue (e.g. flood, mold, ice damming, fire)

Repairs to home due to ordinary wear and tear and expected maintenance (e.g. roof or driveway replacement, eavestrough replacement due to age)

Requests for funding for the same expense will not be permitted within 5 years of the previous request. For example, if funding is provided for fully adapting the main floor bathroom in your home, you may not request funding to make the same changes to that same bathroom within the next 5 years unless there is an urgent need.

Routine dental check-ups

Routine eye exams or annual eye glass prescription renewals

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Some computer equipment, tablets, mobile phones

Televisions, radios

The cost of medically necessary insured hospital or physician services because this is prohibited under the Canada Health Act