

SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program Overview – CPAP

The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) Respiratory Equipment Program offers the loan of a selection of respiratory equipment, including continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) flow generators, to eligible Saskatchewan residents who meet certain [criteria](#).

Are there any costs to access a CPAP through the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program?

Eligible clients have access to a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine for a \$275 program fee, which covers the loan of a CPAP and [repairs](#) as needed for the useful life of the machine (defined as five (5) years). This loan may be extended to the client for more than five (5) years if the machine is in good working order.

Individuals are responsible for the full cost of related supplies, such as mask, headgear, and filters.

Do I need to pay the \$275 program fee before I receive the CPAP machine? Are payment plans available?

Payment will be required before the CPAP machine is provided. At this time payment plans are not available.

I have Saskatchewan Supplementary Health Benefits (SHB); do I have to pay the \$275 program fee?

The loan, repair and replacement of a CPAP machine, along with related supplies, are provided at no cost to individuals eligible for income support through SHB (adults and children) or Family Health Benefits (children only).

I have a CPAP machine but would like to get a second machine. Can I pay the \$275 program fee to receive one?

No. Individuals are limited to one CPAP machine at a time through the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program.

I have a CPAP machine through SAIL that still works, but I would like to exchange it for a new machine. Can I pay the \$275 program fee to receive a new machine?

Clients are asked to keep their existing machine until it is no longer in good working order and requires [repair](#) or replacement, at which time the client can pay the program fee for the loan of a new machine.

Note: Loaned machines must be returned to the SAIL Depot before a new machine will be shipped. Contact the SAIL Depot at 306-655-2505 [before](#) returning the CPAP.

What are the medical eligibility criteria for a CPAP machine?

Eligible clients for the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have a diagnosis of moderate to severe sleep apnea (Respiratory Disturbance Index (RDI) or Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI) of **15 or higher**);
- Be a child under the age of 18 who requires CPAP due to a medical condition; OR
- Be prescribed CPAP by the Medical Director or designate at a Sleep Disorder Centre due to an immediate medical need or a diagnosis of mild sleep apnea (RDI or AHI of five (5) or higher) AND be symptomatic AND work in a high-risk occupation.

How is medical eligibility assessed?

Unless stated otherwise, individuals must:

- Complete a level one or level three sleep study*;
- Have CPAP prescribed by a Saskatchewan based:
 - Respirologist for adults 18 years of age and older; or
 - Pediatric Respirologist for children under the age of 18.
- Have a Sleep Specialist with privileges at a Saskatchewan Sleep Disorders Centre interpret test results and confirm a diagnosis of moderate to severe sleep apnea.

* Level three sleep studies must be based in Saskatchewan, unless pre-authorized by SAIL to be completed out of province.

How do I access a CPAP through the SAIL program?

If you suspect that you have sleep apnea, work with your family physician to be referred to a respirologist. If it is determined that CPAP therapy is an appropriate treatment for your condition, discuss your medical eligibility for the SAIL Program with your respirologist.

Am I required to do the level three sleep study at a private company?

Many individuals choose to participate in a level three sleep study with a Saskatchewan-based respirologist at a private company that sells CPAP devices. The Ministry of Health is not involved in the testing conducted by private companies or their policies or procedures.

How do I access a CPAP through the SAIL program if my level three sleep study was at a private company/ clinic?

You are responsible for telling your respirologist that you want to access a CPAP through the SAIL program. If you are [medically eligible](#), the respirologist may apply on your behalf or give you instructions on how to apply.

I think that APAP would be better for me, can I get an APAP instead?

To be eligible, individuals must:

- Have an Automatic Positive Airway Pressure (APAP) flow generator prescribed by a Sleep Specialist with privileges at a Saskatchewan Sleep Disorders Centre.
- Have a full polysomnography showing a large variation in pressures required as a result of patient position.
- Have inadequate response to conventional CPAP with an adequate response when APAP is used.

Why do I need to do a level one sleep study for the APAP machine?

CPAP therapy meets the needs of most patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). However, APAP may be prescribed if the pressure differential to correct OSA is significantly higher when changes in a person's sleep position (from lateral to supine) further disrupt airflow.

A polysomnography (level one sleep study) is necessary to observe whether a pressure differential exists that may be improved by APAP therapy. Due to its complexity, the polysomnography is done at the Sleep Disorders Centre at either the Saskatoon City Hospital or the Regina General Hospital.

What if my CPAP machine requires repairs?

If a machine requires repair prior to five years of use as the result of a manufacturer defect or a reason that was beyond the control of the client, it will be repaired or replaced at no charge.

If a machine requires repair after more than five years, the client can pay the \$275 program fee for a replacement machine.

Repairs for a CPAP that is damaged due to client misuse or neglect is the responsibility of the client. The client can decide if they would like to pay for the actual cost of repairs and labour or replace their machine for a \$275 program fee.

SAIL does not repair privately purchased respiratory equipment, including CPAP machines.

Note: Clients are responsible for the cost to transport their machine to the Depot. Contact the SAIL Respiratory Benefits Depot at 306-655-2505 before transporting the machine.

I travel a lot, does SAIL offer travel CPAP machines like the ResMed AirMini™ or Philips Dreamstation Go™?

No, SAIL does not offer travel-sized CPAP machines.

I already bought a CPAP, will I be reimbursed?

No. SAIL does not reimburse for privately purchased respiratory equipment, including CPAP.

Is the \$275 program fee refundable?

No, the program fee is not refundable.

Is the program fee or cost of supplies covered by private insurance?

Individuals should contact their private insurer or group benefits administrator directly to see if these machines are a benefit under their policy.

For more information, contact the SAIL Respiratory Equipment Program at 306-787-7121 or 1-888-787-8996.