Revised Policy on Wheelchair User Fees – Next Steps
March 24, 2015

The revised policy on wheelchair user fees is being implemented over the six months between April 1 and October 1, 2015.

In the first phase of the implementation period, owned and operated residential care facilities will begin implementing the revised policy. This will take place between April 1 and June 30, 2015.

While implementation is taking place in the owned and operated facilities, health authorities will consult with contracted residential care service providers regarding implementation of the revised policy. This consultation will take place between April 1 and June 30, 2015.

From July 1 to October 1, 2015, contracted residential care service providers will begin implementing the revised policy.

By October 1, 2015, all residential care service providers in British Columbia are expected to be fully compliant with the revised policy on wheelchair user fees.

During the period of implementation and consultation, any communication and public engagement risks or issues that develop need to be communicated to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) so that the Ministry can respond. Health authorities and service providers are expected to collaborate with the Ministry on the communication and public engagement risks and issues surrounding the implementation of this revised policy on wheelchair user fees.

If residential care clients choose to purchase a wheelchair before the revised policy is implemented in the residential care facility where they reside, there will be no reimbursement for their purchase.

During the six month period leading up to full implementation on October 1, 2015, health authorities and service providers are expected to continue to follow the *first available bed* policy.

It's anticipated that the necessary changes to the Home and Community Care Policy Manual will be completed in June of 2015. When those changes are completed, the Home and Community Care public website will be updated.