
AUGUST ALS ADVISOR – FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

A quarterly newsletter providing the latest information to help support our health care professional team.



How Public Policy Affects People Living With ALS

In addition to our equipment loan and other programs, ALS NB NS also monitors public policy and how it affects the lives of those living with ALS. We are your voice at the table meeting with organizations, government agencies and individuals in a position to affect change.

In the Spring of 2016, ALS NBNS released a position paper that is gaining traction in both provinces, and has resulted in several invitations to explore solutions together. These meetings are ongoing and results will be reported late summer, early fall.



Touched by ALS, our volunteers make a difference !

Stronger Together

Alone we are strong... Together we are stronger.

The ALS Society of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia hosted a 90 minute presentation and open discussion for health care professionals and service providers in both provinces to talk about our equipment loan program and other services for people and families living with ALS. The outcome of this meeting led to several changes to our policies and equipment requisition forms:

For safety reasons, ALS NB NS will ensure that bi-pap, cough assist or suction equipment is not shipped directly to a home or nursing facility, and have added vendor information for shipping and training.

The communication aids section of the equipment loan form is more detailed, allowing the prescriber to accurately advise what is required.

All battery operated pieces of equipment are now sent with labels on the unit reminding our PALS to charge regularly. ALS NB NS has updated our maintenance agreement and waiver forms with information about the process for repairs (all repairs have to be ordered and authorized by ALS NB NS staff) . ALS NB NS takes care of repairs that occur due to normal wear and tear. Should repairs be required due to neglect or irregular use, clients will be responsible for the cost of repairs. ALS NB NS strives to keep high end power wheelchairs intact as they were delivered when purchased new. On a case by case basis, ALS NB NS will consider modifications on these chairs but pre-authorization is required before any work is completed. ALS NB NS starts the process to deliver equipment upon receipt of a prescription form. Prescriptions are processed in the order that they are received.

New Logo and Branding

On June 4th, 2016, the ALS Society of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia unveiled a new logo and branding materials.

As the life-affirming ALS organization for the people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the ALS Society is thrilled to launch a new brand challenging those living with ALS and others to ask themselves, "What will be my transforming moment?"

ALS NB-NS is the place people come to when they are diagnosed with ALS - for information, for resources, for support - to be able to get the most out of the life they are living despite a terminal diagnosis.

ALS NB-NS is a non-profit organization with a positive team of caring people helping those living with ALS by lending, at no charge, equipment that supports their health, independence and best quality of life. Real people offering connection, support and empowerment.

The dragonfly symbolizes the ability to overcome times of hardship.

ALS Champions – Rachel MacNally (NB), Terri Cooper (NS)



The Challenge of Timing

One of our challenges as service providers to our ALS clients is to ensure that they have the equipment they need when they require it, and to ensure that they are ready to receive it.

Although caregivers and professional health care team members may realize that a certain piece of equipment would make life better for the person living with ALS; the person must be ready to accept the equipment physically and emotionally before it is delivered. Unused equipment in a home may mean that someone else with ALS who is ready and needing the equipment may be without.

The journey with ALS is a tough one, no doubt. Each of our clients handles it in a different way and at a different pace. Sometimes the appearance of a certain piece of equipment can be an unwelcome visual reminder of the next stage in the progression of ALS.

For this reason, it is crucial that we assess emotional readiness before sending a piece of equipment. We don't want to cause undue stress. You can help us with this! If you have any concerns about a client's emotional readiness for a piece of equipment and haven't been able to connect with them, please feel free to reach out to us. We are happy to call and/or visit to have that conversation with them.

Assessing physical and emotional readiness helps us manage our equipment delivery costs.

Equipment Delivery

Delivery time for equipment is 2-6 weeks after receipt of the request, with most deliveries falling on the shorter side of that. Breathing equipment is always prioritized – our goal is 24 -72 hours.

It is essential that email communications finalizing details of the request are prompt both ways, as slow response times may delay or even postpone delivery to our clients. If you are very busy, a one-liner is all that is needed!



Having fun at the Fredericton and Oromocto Time to Walk for ALS!

You are greatly appreciated by both the ALS Society and our clients. It is on a regular basis that we hear our clients praising the work you do.