

# Specialized Equipment Program

Residents of provincially licensed and funded long-term care facilities such as nursing homes and residential care facilities, can borrow specialized health equipment from the Canadian Red Cross through its Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP), which is funded by the Department of Health and Wellness. Some examples of specialized health equipment are walkers, crutches, specialized mattresses and beds, and custom wheelchairs.

## Can I buy my own specialized health equipment?

Long-term care residents who wish to purchase their own equipment independently or through private health insurance may do so.

## How do I know what specialized health equipment is right for me?

Staff members at long-term care facilities can help determine residents' needs for specialized health equipment and ensure the appropriate application process is followed. Approval for the program is required, and therefore, requests for specialized health equipment should be forwarded to a Care Coordinator.

## How much will I be required to pay?

Approved applicants may be required to pay a monthly fee for the use of specialized health equipment. Fees are based on income, and the type and quantity of the equipment provided.

## Will the equipment fit me and meet my specific needs?

Specialized equipment can be adjusted to meet your needs. However, the equipment belongs to the Canadian Red Cross and will be returned to its inventory when it is no longer needed by you.

To learn more about the Specialized Equipment Program, please call Continuing Care toll-free line at **1-800-225-7225**, or visit the Department of Health and Wellness website at **[novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs](http://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs)**.

