

## MEMO

**Date:** December 12, 2023

**To:** WRHA & Shared Health Executive; Leadership, Winnipeg Emergency  
**From:** Departments and Urgent Care Centres; WRHA Central Bed Access;  
Dr. Rob Grierson, Chief Medical Officer, Emergency Response Services,  
Shared Health & Medical Director, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service  
Brenda Weiss, Provincial Director, AIA, Emergency Response Services, AIA  
**Re:** **Alternative Integrated Accommodation – Eligibility Updates**

---

Since April 2020, Alternative Isolation Accommodation (commonly referred to as AIA), has supported the care and isolation needs of Manitobans and others who have tested positive for COVID-19 and who did not have access to an appropriate location in which to isolate.

With the evolution of the pandemic, the criteria and services of AIA have also changed over time in order to support the shifting needs of the population.

We are pleased to confirm that AIA services remain available and that our capacity will soon be expanding. While we are still able to support clients in need of a safe space to isolate during a period of respiratory illness, we are increasingly admitting clients who will benefit from the integrated supports of the AIA care team while they recover from illness or injury. The expanded AIA capacity will allow us to continue offering a transitional space for clients to heal until they can be safely discharged home or to a shelter location.

With this change, AIA is also changing our name but keeping the well-known acronym. AIA will now refer to Alternative Integrated Accommodation, which better reflects the connected services and expanded intake criteria of this distinct convalescent environment.

The principles of AIA support and services remain the same, with 24/7 on-site paramedic and health care aide staff, daily assessment by the healthcare team, on-call access to physician consultation, and cultural care options provided by the FNHSSM Turtle Team.

Available supports have been updated to include:

- Isolation support during respiratory illness, including Tuberculosis
- Post-surgical wound care and dressing/packing changes (no VAC)
- Intravenous antibiotics and antivirals
- Home oxygen

Eligible clients must meet the following criteria:

- A maximum of two-weeks anticipated stay – houseless or displaced clients are eligible however a housing plan must be initiated and community supports established prior to discharge;

- AIA is wheelchair accessible, however clients are required to be able to self-transfer or require minimal assist (one person assist); clients with their own caregiver may be considered;
- Clients must be able to independently use a telephone or have an accompanying caregiver;
- Clients with physiotherapy needs must be following a self-directed program, no rehabilitation services are available on site.

## Referral

Our referral form has been updated and is available here. Email completed form to [AIAReferral@sharedhealthmb.ca](mailto:AIAReferral@sharedhealthmb.ca)

Or Fax 204-926-9847 and call AIA Manager at 204-795-3093

Additional Forms, Standard Operating Procedures and other important resources are available here: <https://healthproviders.sharedhealthmb.ca/services/alternative-integrated-accommodation/>.

An information sheet explaining the services and criteria of AIA has also been developed and is available to print here.

Please share, print and post in areas where providers who may wish to refer to AIA are present.