

Help Us Manage PROP Supplies and Spending

By Walt Lawrence

We have a goal to reduce our spending on supplies in 2014. Please help us to reach our goal! We invite your comments on how we can be more efficient in our supply use.

As a long-time user of the Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program (PROP) services, I have been so pleased with the quality of service, equipment, care and supplies. We truly have a great client-centered, leading-edge program.

A few years ago, I was pleased to be elected as a member of the PROP Board of Directors. We have the responsibility to review the operations and finances of the program. It has come to the Board's attention that clients' supplies usage is escalating and these costs were forecast to be well over budget for this year.

Managing PROP's spending, while meeting client's needs, is always a challenging balance. PROP staff will be reviewing internal policies and procedures, but PROP needs your help to see how we can reduce spending in this area.

Please consider these questions about your own use of supplies:

Could you be more efficient in how you use your supplies?

Are you following best practices in cleaning and caring for the equipment/supplies which can reduce the need for replacements?

Could you plan ahead and order a few months' supplies at once to reduce shipping costs?

PROP is way over-budget on masks. Are there ways you can reduce the number of masks you order?

Do you see things that PROP could do differently to reduce supplies' costs?

Our budget is "locked in" for the next few years, so we are asking PROP clients to help us control costs within your program. As we mention above, for example, ordering your supplies every 3 months is one thing you can do to help reduce shipping costs.

From time to time, our respiratory therapists will be reviewing your supply needs with you and, at least annually, we plan to provide you with an account of your expenditures of supplies. We'll work with you during this review to identify possible ways to cut costs.

We have a goal to reduce our spending on supplies in 2014. Please help us to reach our goal!

We invite your comments at prop@bcits.org on how we can be more efficient in our supply use. Thank you for your thoughts and for helping us improve PROP.