

# Home Health / Community Health Risk Assessment for Air Conditioning Recommendation

## Background

Through its Energy Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP), BC Hydro offers portable air conditioners at no charge in order to support vulnerable customers. Individuals living in an income-qualified households may be eligible to receive these cooling devices. In addition to income qualification, individuals can be recommended for inclusion and prioritization in the air conditioning portion to the ECAP by a home health clinician or health nurse working in First Nations communities', if that clinician determines that they are at increased risk of adverse health outcomes due to medical and/or socio-environmental factors.

## Use of Prioritization Assessment

The following criteria are designed to provide assessment guidance to home health clinicians and health nurses working in First Nations communities' when determining whether a client should be recommended to receive an air conditioning unit through ECAP on the basis of vulnerability to heat. These criteria reflect provincial evidence generated by the BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Coroners Service, and the regional health authorities.

If it is determined that the client has the below listed risk factors, then the clinician may recommend the client to BC Hydro's program on the grounds of health risk using the attached Home Health / Community Health Heat Vulnerability Recommendation Letter. The letter should be completed by the clinician and provided to the client or their representative so it can be submitted to BC Hydro as part of their application to the ECAP.

## Application Process

1. Clinician uses the questions below to assess heat vulnerability on behalf of their client/applicant.
2. If appropriate, clinician provides a Home Health/Community Health Vulnerability Assessment letter with a signature, date, and practitioner number and/or professional designation on the letter.
3. The client/applicant applies via mailed paper form or online. The client/applicant provides clinician letter, income information for verification, landlord approval (if applicable).
4. Hydro/Fortis contractor schedules and performs home assessment and any required electrical upgrades.
5. Hydro/Fortis contractor schedules and performs installation and provides educational materials on how and when to use new air conditioning unit.

Questions		Yes	No
		(circle number)	
Medical Risk Factors	1. Does the individual have any of the following high-priority medical conditions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schizophrenia or other psychotic disorder</li> <li>- COPD</li> <li>- Heart failure</li> <li>- Chronic kidney disease</li> <li>- Parkinsonism</li> </ul>	2	0
	2. Does the individual have any of the following priority medical conditions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cognitive impairment</li> <li>- Limited mobility</li> <li>- Substance use disorder</li> <li>- Frailty</li> <li>- Heart disease</li> </ul>	1	0
Socio-environmental Risk Factors	3. Does the individual have any of the following high-priority social-environmental considerations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lives alone</li> <li>- Socially isolated</li> </ul>	2	0
	4. Does the individual have any of the following priority social-environmental considerations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unable to access a cool space (i.e., no basement, common cooling room, unable to access transportation to cooling centres, etc.)</li> <li>- Predominantly south facing windows</li> <li>- Bedroom on the top floor</li> <li>- Lack of surrounding trees/shade in the neighborhood</li> </ul>	1	0
		<b>Total Score:</b>	

Total Score	Vulnerability
4-6	Highest priority
3	High priority
2	Medium priority
1	Lower priority
0	Not a health priority

### Additional Information

Further information and to apply online visit <https://www.bchydro.com/ecap>

Landlord consent form for renters visit [Landlord consent form.](#)

Link to paper application visit [Paper Application](#)

For assistance with applications call 1-800-BCHYDRO (1-800-224-9376)