

BC PharmaCare

Blood glucose test strips

BC PharmaCare covers a specific number of blood glucose test strips in a year, depending on the diabetes treatment you are receiving.

Annual test strip limits

If you are in more than one of these treatment categories, you are covered at the higher limit:

With insulin and without a continuous or flash glucose monitor. **Annual limit:** 3000

With insulin and with a continuous or flash glucose monitor. **Annual limit:** 200

Anti-hyperglycemics with a higher risk of causing hypoglycemia (e.g., insulin secretagogues –sulfonylureas such as glyburide, and meglitinides such as repaglinide). **Annual limit:** 400

Anti-hyperglycemics with a lower risk of causing hypoglycemia (e.g., alpha-glucosidase inhibitors such as acarbose; biguanides such as metformin; dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors such as linagliptin; incretin mimetics/glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) agonists such as semaglutide; sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors such as empagliflozin; thiazolidinediones (TZDs), such as pioglitazone). **Annual limit:** 200

Diet/exercise. **Annual limit:** 200

- When you buy test strips, the computer system (PharmaNet) deducts the amount from your annual limit
- If you change treatments, your annual limit is automatically updated in PharmaNet
- To find out how many strips you have left, call HIBC (number below)
- Make sure the expiry date on the strips you buy is far enough in the future
- Talk to your doctor or diabetes educator about how often to test, or visit diabetes.ca/takecharge

If you need more strips

Your doctor or diabetes education centre can request PharmaCare coverage of additional strips if you need to test more often, are not using insulin, and you have:

- Not met blood glucose level targets determined by a physician, for 3 months or more
- An acute illness or condition that may affect your blood glucose control
- Started or stopped medications that induce hypo- or hyperglycemia
- A job where hypoglycemia is a significant safety risk (e.g., pilots, commercial drivers)
- Gestational diabetes

In rare cases, if you have a medical need to test more frequently, or take insulin and need to test more frequently, your endocrinologist can submit a request to PharmaCare for additional strips.

Questions?

Call us Monday to Friday 8 am – 8 pm and Saturday 8 am – 4pm at 1 800 663-7100