

BC PharmaCare

PharmaCare coverage of insulin pumps

PharmaCare covers insulin pumps for eligible individuals with type 1 diabetes or other forms of diabetes requiring insulin.

Who can get coverage

Insulin pump coverage is available to people who meet all the following criteria:

- Have type 1 diabetes or another form of diabetes requiring insulin
- Are covered under the Fair PharmaCare plan, Plan C (Income Assistance), Plan F (Children in the At Home Program) or Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits)
- Have confirmation from their endocrinologist or diabetes specialist that they meet the medical criteria
- Their specialist's request for Special Authority coverage is approved

If you do not have Fair PharmaCare coverage, you can register at gov.bc.ca/ahdc

How to get coverage

Speak to your endocrinologist or diabetes specialist. If you meet the medical criteria, they will submit a request to PharmaCare for Special Authority coverage. If the request is approved, your specialist will give you a copy of the approval letter. Provide the letter to the pump manufacturer when you buy your pump. Wait for the letter before buying your pump. PharmaCare cannot cover purchases made before approval is confirmed.

The pumps that PharmaCare covers

PharmaCare provides coverage for the Omnipod Insulin Management System (Insulet), or Ypsomed* (Ypsomed)*. If your endocrinologist or diabetes specialist determines these systems are clinically unsuitable for you, exceptional coverage may be provided for a MiniMed Insulin Pump System (Medtronic).

How much PharmaCare covers

The Omnipod system's personal diabetes manager is available at no cost, regardless of your PharmaCare plan or any deductible you may have. The Ypsomed* starter kit is supplied at the cost of \$800, applied to your Fair PharmaCare deductible/family maximum.

The Omnipod pods and Ypsomed's infusion sets and supplies are covered as follows:

- Under Fair PharmaCare, you pay for insulin pump supplies until you meet your deductible, then 70 percent of costs until you meet your family maximum. PharmaCare then covers 100 percent of costs
- If you are covered under Plan C (B.C. Income Assistance), Plan F (Children in the At Home Program), or Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits), PharmaCare covers 100 percent of the cost

If you are approved for exceptional coverage of the MiniMed pump:

- Under Fair PharmaCare, you pay for the insulin pump and supplies until you meet your deductible, then 70 percent of costs until you meet your family maximum. PharmaCare then covers 100 percent of costs
- If you are covered under Plan C (B.C. Income Assistance), Plan F (Children in the At Home Program), or Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits), PharmaCare covers 100 percent of the cost

* Ypsomed pumps have limited availability.

Where to buy an insulin pump

Buy your insulin pump from one of these PharmaCare-approved vendors in B.C.:

- Insulet Canada Corporation
- Medtronic of Canada Ltd.
- Ypsomed AG

How often PharmaCare will cover a new pump

PharmaCare covers one insulin pump every 5 years and does not cover repairs. Each device comes with a 5-year manufacturer warranty. You may want to check whether your home insurance covers any damage to the pump that is not covered under the manufacturer's warranty.

If your pump stops working after the 5-year period

If your PharmaCare-covered pump is more than 5 years old and beyond repair, contact the manufacturer. Ask for a letter confirming your warranty expiry date. Take the letter to your endocrinologist/diabetes specialist. They will include it in a new request for PharmaCare insulin pump coverage.

If you already own an insulin pump that is not covered by PharmaCare

PharmaCare coverage is available if you meet the criteria for PharmaCare insulin pump coverage, your current pump is 4 or more years old, and the manufacturer's warranty has expired. Contact the pump manufacturer for a letter confirming your warranty expiry date. Take the letter to your endocrinologist/diabetes specialist. They will include it in a new request for PharmaCare insulin pump coverage.

Insulin pump supplies

PharmaCare covers certain insulin pump supplies if you are covered under Fair PharmaCare, Plan C (B.C. Income Assistance), Plan F (At Home Program) or Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits).

This coverage is available regardless of whether your pump was covered by PharmaCare. You do not need PharmaCare pre-approval for insulin pump supplies.

To be eligible for coverage, supplies must be purchased from the pump manufacturer or a pharmacy. They will submit the claim in PharmaNet. PharmaCare cannot accept paper claims for insulin pump supplies.

PharmaCare covers specific infusion sets/kits and insulin pump reservoirs/cartridges. PharmaCare does not cover batteries, battery caps, adhesive pads, etc.

More information

For more information, speak to your endocrinologist or diabetes specialist or contact PharmaCare: Monday to Friday 8 am to 8 pm and Saturday 8 am to 4 pm

- From the Lower Mainland: 604-683-7151
- From the rest of B.C., toll-free: 1-800-663-7100

Online resources

- Register for Fair PharmaCare: gov.bc.ca/ahdc