

BC PharmaCare

PharmaCare coverage of insulin pumps

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

Who can get coverage

Insulin pump coverage is available to people who:

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

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

How to get coverage

Visit 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. Make sure you have the letter before buying your pump, as PharmaCare cannot cover the costs of an insulin pump that was purchased before approval is confirmed.

The pumps that PharmaCare covers

PharmaCare provides coverage for the Omnipod Insulin Management System (Insulet), Ypsopump (Ypsomed)*, or MiniMed Insulin Pump System (Medtronic).

How much PharmaCare covers

The Omnipod Insulin Management System personal diabetes manager is available at no cost, no matter your PharmaCare plan or any deductible you may have. The Ypsomed* starter kit at the cost of \$800 and the MiniMed Insulin Pump System at the cost of \$6,600 are covered as follows:

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

Infusion sets and supplies for all systems are covered as follows:

- Under Fair PharmaCare, you pay for insulin pump supplies until you meet your deductible, then PharmaCare covers 70 percent of costs until you meet your family maximum. PharmaCare covers 100 percent of costs after you meet your family maximum
- If you are covered under Plan C (Income Assistance), Plan F (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 (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 BC pharmacy enrolled with PharmaCare as a provider. 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

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