

PharmaCare Coverage of Insulin Pumps

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

Who is eligible for coverage?

Insulin pump coverage is available to individuals who:

- are covered under Fair PharmaCare, Plan C (B.C. Income Assistance), Plan F (Children in the At Home Program) or Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits), and
- have Type 1 diabetes or another form of diabetes requiring insulin, and
- have confirmation from their endocrinologist/diabetes physician that they meet the medical criteria, and
- have received Special Authority coverage approval.

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

How do I obtain coverage?

Speak to your endocrinologist/diabetes physician specialist. If you meet the medical criteria for coverage of a pump, your specialist will submit a Special Authority request to PharmaCare.

If the request is approved, PharmaCare will send an approval letter to your specialist's office. Your specialist will give you a copy of this letter to provide to the insulin pump manufacturer when purchasing your pump.

Be sure to wait for the approval letter before purchasing your insulin pump. PharmaCare cannot provide retroactive coverage for purchases made before your approval is confirmed.

What kinds of pump are covered?

PharmaCare provides coverage for the Omnipod Insulin Management System manufactured by Insulet. If your endocrinologist/diabetes physician specialist determines that this system is clinically unsuitable for you, exceptional coverage may be provided for a MiniMed Insulin Pump System manufactured by Medtronic.

How much will PharmaCare cover?

The Omnipod system is available at no cost, regardless of the PharmaCare plan you are covered under or any deductible you may have.

For those approved for exceptional coverage of the MiniMed pump, PharmaCare coverage is dependent on your PharmaCare plan and any associated deductible and family maximum:

- 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% of the cost.
- if you are covered under the Fair PharmaCare plan, PharmaCare covers 70% of costs above your deductible and 100% of costs above your family maximum.

Where should I buy my insulin pump?

Your Special Authority approval letter will include instructions for how to obtain your approved insulin pump.

How often will PharmaCare cover a new pump?

PharmaCare covers one insulin pump every five years and does not cover repairs. Each device comes with a five-year manufacturer's 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.

What if my pump stops working after the five year period is up?

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

What if I already own an insulin pump that was not covered by PharmaCare?

PharmaCare coverage is available if you meet the criteria for a subsequent pump, your current pump is four or more years old, and the manufacturer's warranty has expired. Contact your pump manufacturer for a letter confirming your warranty expiry date. Your endocrinologist/diabetes specialist physician will include this with a Special Authority request for pump coverage.

Where can I get more information?

Visit gov.bc.ca/PharmaCare/insulinpumps for more information.

Insulin Pump Supplies

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

This coverage is available whether or not 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, and the claim must be submitted on PharmaNet, the provincial prescription claims network. PharmaCare cannot accept manual/paper claims for insulin pump supplies.

PharmaCare covers specific [infusion sets/kits and pump reservoirs/cartridges](#).

PharmaCare does not cover batteries, battery caps, adhesive pads, continuous glucose monitors, etc.