



PharmaCare Coverage of Insulin Pumps

PharmaCare covers insulin pumps for individuals age 25 or younger with Type 1 diabetes or other forms of diabetes requiring insulin. Supplies for insulin pumps are covered for insulin pump users of any age.

Who is eligible for coverage?

Insulin pump coverage is available to individuals who:

- are **25 years of age or younger**, and
- have **Type 1 diabetes or another form of diabetes requiring insulin**, and
- are covered under **Fair PharmaCare, PharmaCare Plan C** (B.C. Income Assistance Recipients), **PharmaCare Plan F** (Children in the At Home Program) or **PharmaCare Plan W** (First Nations Health Benefits), and
- have confirmation from their diabetes physician that they meet the medical criteria, and
- have **Special Authority coverage** (see “How do I obtain coverage?” below).

How much will PharmaCare cover?

PharmaCare covers 100% of the cost of one of the approved insulin pumps every five years subject to the rules of your PharmaCare plan. For instance, if you are:

- on Plan C (B.C. Income Assistance), Plan F (Children in the At Home Program), or Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits), PharmaCare covers 100%
- covered under the Fair PharmaCare plan, PharmaCare covers 70% of costs above your deductible and 100% of costs above your family maximum.

Important: Be sure to register for Fair PharmaCare **before** purchasing an insulin pump to ensure you get maximum coverage.

How do I obtain coverage?

The first step is to speak to your diabetes physician specialist. If you meet the medical criteria for coverage of a pump, the specialist will submit a Special Authority request to PharmaCare.

If the request is approved, we will send an approval letter to your specialist's office. Your specialist will give you a copy of this letter to take to the approved insulin pump vendor of your choice.

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

Where should I buy my insulin pump?

Buy your insulin pump from a **PharmaCare-approved vendor in B.C.** The approved vendors are:

- Animas Canada (a division of LifeScan Canada Ltd.)
- Insulet Canada Corporation
- Medtronic of Canada Ltd.

What if I have problems using a pump instead of regular injections?

Speak to your diabetes specialist. If, in consultation with your specialist, it is determined that you cannot continue using a pump, you may be able to return it. Some vendors may allow you to return the pump for a refund in the first 90 days after purchase. In this case, the vendor will reverse the PharmaCare claim and refund any portion of the cost you paid.

How often will PharmaCare cover a new pump?

PharmaCare covers only **one insulin pump every five years** and **does not cover repairs**. You may want to check that your home insurance covers any damage to the pump that is not covered under the manufacturer warranty.

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

If your PharmaCare-covered pump is beyond economical repair, contact the vendor of your pump and ask for a letter confirming your warranty expiry date. Take the letter to your diabetes physician. Your specialist will include the letter from the vendor with the Special Authority request to PharmaCare.

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.

Your specialist can submit a Special Authority request to PharmaCare for coverage.

Contact your pump vendor for a letter confirming your warranty expiry date. Your specialist will include this proof that your warranty is about to expire with the Special Authority request.

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 whether or not your pump was covered by PharmaCare. You do not need PharmaCare pre-approval for insulin pump supplies.

To be eligible, the supplies must be bought from an **approved insulin pump vendor or pharmacy** and the claim must be submitted on the provincial prescription claims network, PharmaNet. PharmaCare cannot accept paper ("manual") claims for insulin pump supplies.

PharmaCare covers specific infusion sets/kits and insulin pump reservoirs/cartridges.

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