

BC PharmaCare

Prosthetic & Orthotic Program

If you need a prosthetic or orthotic device, PharmaCare could help you with the cost.

How PharmaCare can help

PharmaCare helps people pay for specific items in the following categories:

- Prostheses and supplies—e.g., prosthetic breast, limb, eye, ear, nose
- Orthoses for people 18 or younger—e.g., permanent leg brace, body brace, plagiocephaly helmet
- Offloading devices—orthotic inserts, orthotic covers, therapeutic shoes

Generally, PharmaCare helps pay for the eligible device that helps you achieve or maintain basic function and/or that helps prevent further deformity.

Eligible products are listed at www.gov.bc.ca/prostheticandorthoticpins

PharmaCare also helps pay for repairs and replacements in specific situations.

In most cases, PharmaCare must approve coverage before you buy an item or have it repaired or replaced (“pre-approval”). Your prosthetist or orthotist will apply for you.

Coverage varies by plan

If you have PharmaCare coverage through Plan B (Long-term Care), Plan C (Income Assistance) or Plan F (Children in the At Home Program), PharmaCare will cover the cost of most eligible prostheses, orthoses and offloading devices.

If you aren't covered by one of these plans, make sure you are registered for the Fair PharmaCare plan before you buy a device. Visit www.gov.bc.ca/ahdc to register or visit www.gov.bc.ca/fairpharmacare to check whether you are registered. The Fair PharmaCare plan provides coverage based on your income.

How it works

Your doctor and prosthetist or orthotist will determine what you need.

For most new devices, and repairs and replacements, your prosthetist or orthotist will apply for PharmaCare pre-approval before the device is made and sold to you. You must have PharmaCare coverage in place before you buy, and the prosthetist or orthotist must be enrolled in the PharmaCare program as a provider.

If pre-approval is not needed, coverage will be applied automatically when your orthotist or prosthetist enters the purchase in the computer.

Repairs

PharmaCare helps pay for repairs for eligible devices if you are covered by a PharmaCare plan and the repair:

- Helps you maintain basic function
- Extends the useful life of the device
- Is for a device that was covered by PharmaCare when it was bought
- Is not covered by a warranty

Replacements

For eligible prosthetic devices, PharmaCare usually covers a replacement if:

- PharmaCare first approved coverage at least 3 years ago (2 years ago for a breast prosthesis)
- A prosthetist explains on the application form that the current device no longer helps you maintain basic function

For eligible orthotic devices, PharmaCare usually covers a replacement if:

- The patient is 18 or younger
- PharmaCare first approved coverage at least 1 year ago
- An orthotist explains on the application form that the current device no longer helps maintain basic function

Items that are not covered

- Back-up devices
- Replacements for lost or stolen devices
- Devices covered by another insurer, such as ICBC, WorkSafeBC, Veterans Affairs Canada, or Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits program
- Devices covered through an award for damages or a court settlement

More information

Find additional information sheets about PharmaCare coverage for plagiocephaly helmets and offloading devices at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepatientinfo>

Read more about PharmaCare's prosthetic and orthotic program at www.gov.bc.ca/popolicy

Read more about the different PharmaCare plans at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/whowecover

For more information, call us Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm and Saturday 8 am to 4 pm:

1-800-663-7100

Note: If you receive benefits through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) or the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), those ministries may help you pay for devices not covered by PharmaCare. Contact them for more information.