

PharmaCare Prosthetic & Orthotic Program

Do you need a prosthetic or orthotic device?

This program could help you with the cost of those products and services.

What does this program cover?

The program covers the following products when they are purchased from an **approved provider**¹:

- Designated, pre-approved prostheses and supplies for eligible patients of any age
- Designated, pre-approved orthoses for eligible patients age 18 or younger

For both prostheses and orthoses, PharmaCare covers the lowest cost device that helps you maintain basic function (or, for orthoses, that helps you maintain basic function and/or prevents further deformity). Learn more about the specific products covered at www.gov.bc.ca/prostheticandorthoticpins.

What is not covered?

- Back-up devices or the replacement of lost or stolen items
- Products or devices covered by another insurer such as ICBC, WorkSafeBC, Veterans Affairs Canada, Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, similar programs from other provinces or jurisdictions, or under an award for damages.

How much help can I get?

Your coverage depends on the rules of your PharmaCare plan. For full information on each PharmaCare plan, visit www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare.

Don't have PharmaCare coverage yet? Be sure to register for the Fair PharmaCare plan **before** you buy a prosthesis or orthosis. You can register online or by phone. For more information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/fairpharmacareregistration.

How does it work?

First, your health care provider will determine what services or supplies you need.

- **If the cost will be for less than \$400 and you are covered under Fair PharmaCare**, send a claim directly to PharmaCare.

If you are on another PharmaCare plan, your supplier will send in claims for under \$400 on your behalf.

- **Generally, if the cost will be more than \$400**, you need PharmaCare pre-approval. Your prosthetic or orthotic supplier will submit an Application for Financial Assistance to PharmaCare on your behalf.

¹An approved provider is a certified prosthetist, orthotist and/or fitter at an approved site. Ask your supplier if they enrolled with PharmaCare or call Health Insurance BC to confirm the supplier's status. From Vancouver, call **604 683-7151**. From the rest of B.C., call toll-free **1 800 663-7100**.

What if I need more assistance with costs?

Do you receive benefits through the Ministry Social Development and Poverty Reduction or the Ministry of Children and Family Development? Those ministries may help you pay for devices not covered by PharmaCare.

Breast Prostheses and Supplies

If you have a mastectomy or lumpectomy, you may be eligible for coverage of the following prostheses and supplies when purchased from an approved provider:

Breast prostheses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one every 2 years or at the end of the manufacturer's warranty • maximum \$450 for mastectomy, \$350 for lumpectomy <p><i>Note: For breast prostheses, exceptions may be made to the 2 year limit, PharmaCare pre-approval is required.</i></p>
Lymphedema arm sleeves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two per mastectomy, per year (no pre-approval needed for costs above \$400)
Gloves or gauntlets for lymphedema arm sleeves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two per mastectomy, per year • maximum \$150 for off-the-shelf products, \$300 for custom-fit products.

Orthotic Devices

Eligible patients who are 18 or younger can get help with the cost of some orthotic devices that help maintain basic function or prevent deformity. The program covers:

- permanent leg braces;
- body braces to correct medical conditions such as spina bifida and scoliosis; and
- plagiocephaly helmets (For details about coverage of plagiocephaly helmets, please see the information sheet available at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepatientinfo.)

Repairs and Replacements

Note: All repairs and replacements of \$400 or more require PharmaCare pre-approval.

The program covers repairs only if they:

- are not covered by a warranty;
- help maintain basic function;
- extend the useful life of the device; and,
- are for a device covered by PharmaCare when it was bought.

Prosthetic devices may be replaced:

- no sooner than 3 years from the date PharmaCare first approved coverage; and,
- if a prosthetist shows that the device no longer helps the patient maintain basic function.

Orthotic devices for patients 18 and under may be replaced:

- no sooner than 1 year from the date PharmaCare first approved the coverage; and,
- if an orthotist shows that the device no longer helps the patient maintain basic function.