

Welcome to PharmaCare 101 – Devices and Medical Supplies



Devices and Medical Supplies


PharmaCare 101



BRITISH COLUMBIA



Pharmaceutical, Laboratory & Blood Services Division
Ministry of Health



Prosthetic and Orthotic Policy Manual:
www.gov.bc.ca/popolicy

Prosthetic and Orthotic Program

Pre-approval

- Prosthetic and orthotic devices, and repairs over \$400 require pre-approval

Device provider

- Determines patient's functionality needs
- Submits an application for financial assistance

PharmaCare

- Reviews application and determines the maximum coverage

PharmaCare covers some prostheses, orthoses, and ostomy and diabetes supplies. All prostheses and orthoses devices, and repairs and adjustments of over \$400, must be pre-approve for coverage. The device provider determines a patient's basic functionality needs. "Basic functionality" is specific to the individual (for example, an athlete vs. a sedentary 90-year-old have different basic functionality needs).

The device provider submits an application for financial assistance. PharmaCare reviews the application and determines the maximum amount it will cover. Coverage will depend on a patient's plan rules, including deductible requirements.

Prosthetic and Orthotic Program

Prostheses covered by PharmaCare include:

- Limb (leg and arm)
- Breast
- Eye
- Ear
- Nose
- Osseointegration

Orthoses

- Children under 18 can be covered
- Plagiocephaly helmets for infants



Prostheses covered by PharmaCare include:

- leg (above and below knee; and hip)
- arm (above and below elbow; and shoulder)
- breast, following mastectomy or lumpectomy (also lymphedema arm sleeves and gloves, and gauntlets for the sleeves)
- custom ocular prosthesis and polishing (prosthetic eye)
- custom nose and ear

Custom orthoses can be covered for children 18 and under, if they are worn full-time to prevent future deformity or maintain basic functionality (for example, plagiocephaly helmets for infants)



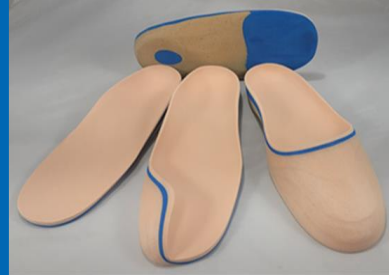
Ostomy products may be covered for patients who have undergone bowel or bladder surgery that results in a colostomy, ileostomy or urostomy, requiring an external pouch -- restricted to ostomates.

PharmaCare also covers insulin pumps and supplies for patients with type 1 diabetes or another form requiring insulin. Patients must have confirmation from an endocrinologist or other diabetes specialist that they meet the medical criteria.

PharmaCare also covers blood glucose test strips, continuous and flash glucose monitors, and needles and syringes.

Offloading Devices

- Foot orthotics
- Adaptive shoes for diabetic foot ulcers



BC PharmaCare provides coverage for foot orthotics and adaptive shoes that help people recover from diabetic foot ulcers; these items are also called offloading devices.

Coverage is available to people who have been wearing a total contact cast and are ready to transition to an offloading device. To qualify for coverage, patients must be treated for their foot ulcer at an approved B.C. outpatient or ambulatory clinic and determined ready to transition to an offloading device by a nurse or physician. Next, the clinic has to refer them to a PharmaCare-enrolled orthotist.

The orthotist applies for coverage.

Coverage can be under [Fair PharmaCare](#), [Plan B](#) (Long-term Care) or [Plan C](#) (BC Income Assistance). The amount of coverage under Fair PharmaCare depends on deductible and family maximum requirements.



Thanks for watching this PharmaCare 101 video about devices and medical supplies. To watch more videos, visit gov.bc.ca/PharmaCare101