

Questions & Answers



PEI Provincial Insulin Pump Program

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the PEI Insulin Pump Program?

A: Islanders under the age of 25 years, living with type 1 diabetes can apply to the PEI Insulin Pump Program to help offset the cost associated with insulin pump therapy. The diabetes care team must be satisfied that this individual is a good candidate for an insulin pump before they will be approved under the program. To find out more about the medical eligibility criteria, click here www.healthpei.ca/insulin-pump. If you have further questions, talk to your diabetes care team.

Q: What will it cost?

A: The PEI Insulin Pump Program may provide up to 100% coverage to assist with the cost of the pump and monthly pump supplies for those who qualify. The amount this program will provide for individuals will depend on a number of factors, including private health care coverage and income. So, the cost to the individual or family will vary.

Q: What is covered?

A: The following list details the supplies that are eligible for coverage under the PEI Insulin Pump Program:

- Insulin pump from a government approved vendor (one pump every 5 years)
- Infusion sets (maximum of 140 sets per year)
- Reservoirs (maximum of 140 per year)
- Site inserts maximum of one replacement device per year)
- Skin adhesive wipes (maximum of 150 per year)
- Sterile transparent dressings (maximum of 200 per year)

Please note: Under the PEI Insulin Pump Program, only devices and supplies included in the *Approved Vendors: Devices and Supplies List* are eligible for support under the pump program. Contracts are established between the Department of Health and Wellness and those approved vendors, therefore it is important to be aware that not all pumps / supplies available in Canada are covered under the pump program. The list can be found on line at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/insulin-pump-program>

Q: Are glucose sensors covered?

A: Glucose sensors are funded under the Health PEI Glucose Sensor Program. You can apply for coverage under the Glucose Sensor Program and the Insulin Pump Program using one combined application for both programs. The application can be found at www.healthpei.ca/insulin-pump.

For more information on the Glucose Sensor Program please review the information by visiting <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/glucose-sensor-program>

Q: Is there assistance with the cost of additional blood glucose testing?

A: Once approved and registered for benefits under the Health PEI Insulin Pump Program, individuals are eligible to receive 500 blood glucose test strips for free when starting a new insulin pump. These test strips are available through your pump trained clinician within the Provincial Diabetes Program. This is in addition to the current 100 test strips per 25 days provided to insulin users under the PEI Pharmacare Program.

Q: How can I calculate our copayment?

A: If you have private health care insurance, you should contact your insurance provider first to determine how much coverage is available under your plan for both the insulin pump, ongoing cost of pump supplies and glucose sensors. You should request a **written** notification (not just verbal) verifying coverage from your private health insurance. That portion will be deducted prior to establishing out of pocket cost to the individual/family.

You can submit a Family Contribution Assessment and Release of Information form -Initial Application to the Diabetes Program Administrator. You can get this form from your diabetes care team, or online at: www.healthpei.ca/insulin-pump. The program will calculate out of pocket expenses based on family income and other considerations. The program may help with the costs your insurance doesn't cover. The following chart shows examples of what could be covered for individuals under this program:

Yearly household income	Percentage of eligible coverage	Estimated out of pocket costs *			
		Without private health insurance		With private health insurance providing 80% coverage (for example purposes only)	
		Pump Payable Every 5 years	Pump supplies/year	Pump Payable Every 5 years	Pump supplies/year
\$0-\$20K	100%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$20K -\$40K	95%	\$315	\$150	\$63	\$30
\$40- \$50K	90%	\$630	\$300	\$126	\$60
\$50K - \$100K	70%	\$1890	\$900	\$378	\$180
\$100k +	60%	\$2520	\$1200	\$504	\$240

*The co-pay amount is in addition to any current expenses for insulin and blood glucose test strips covered under the provincial Pharmacare program. It does not include out of pocket expenses for additional blood glucose test strips (6-10 tests per day), lancets, pump batteries etc., while on insulin pump therapy. (Additional average out of pocket expenses = \$1200/year). All costs listed are estimates only. Individuals are required to apply for program funding and will be provided with specific pricing that reflects their situation. Determining factors include: private insurance coverage, device costs and household income.

Q: How do we define "Household"?

A: A household is:

- a single adult
- an adult and spouse (refer to definition below)
- an adult and all dependent children (refer to definition below)
- an adult, spouse, and all dependent children

Q: How do we define "Spouse"?

A: A spouse is a person who is married to you or with whom you are living in a marriage-like relationship. A spouse may be of the same gender.

Q: How do we define “Dependent”?

A: A dependent is:

- a child or a legal ward of you or your spouse
- under the age of 18 years or under the age of 26 and attending a post-secondary institution on a full time basis - confirmation of enrolment from the post-secondary institution is required.
- not married and not living in a marriage-like relationship

A dependent can only be registered with one family at any given time.

Q: How do we define “Full Time Student” for post-secondary students?

A: A full time student is defined by your post-secondary institution. A letter of proof of full time enrollment from the University/College is required when you apply for benefits annually under the Insulin Pump Program.

Q: What if I am single, 18 years of age or over and still living with my family?

A: If you are 18 years of age or over, and **NOT** a full time student, you must complete your own registration form. If you live with your parents and do not have a spouse or dependents, you are a family of one for our purposes. Do not include your parents’ names or their incomes on your registration form. If you have private health insurance coverage (i.e your own **or** your parents’ health insurance) you must declare that on your application.

Q: Can I apply my out of pocket co-pay expenses to the “household cap” for the PEI Catastrophic Drug Program?

A: No, out of pocket expenses paid for the insulin pump, pump supplies or glucose sensors cannot be applied to the Catastrophic Drug Program “household cap”.

Q: How can I (or my child) enroll in the program?

A: If you are unfamiliar with insulin pump therapy, and are unsure if it is right for you /your child, you should have a discussion with your diabetes physician specialist / pediatrician. Following that, you should complete the Family Contribution and Assessment Form, which is available from your diabetes care team or online at www.healthpei.ca/insulin-pump. The completed application should be submitted to the Insulin Pump Program administrator at the address indicated on the form.

After your application is submitted and you agree to the family contribution amount, you will work with your diabetes health care team to complete the required medical assessment, clinical appointments and education prior to starting the insulin pump. Once that is complete, you /your child will be registered in the program and eligible for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program and the Glucose Sensor Program.

If you are currently on insulin pump therapy and you want to register for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program (including glucose sensors), you should complete and submit the Family Contribution Assessment Form – Initial Application and arrange an appointment with your diabetes care team to have the necessary medical eligibility assessment completed. If the eligibility requirements are met, the required documentation will be completed and you / your child will be registered in the program and eligible for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program and the Glucose Sensor Program.

Q: When will we receive the insulin pump and supplies?

A: This will depend on the time it takes to ensure the individual / family is prepared to use the insulin pump. Individuals must also learn about the features of the pump and how to use it safely. You will need to work closely with your diabetes care team to figure this out. On average, the process can take three and six months.

Q: How long am I eligible for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program and the Glucose Sensor Program?

A: Once you have enrolled in the program, your eligibility will expire on June 30th each year. You must reapply by July 1st annually to avoid a break in coverage. Prior to submit your annual renewal, your income tax for the preceding year must be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency. It is suggested to submit your required renewal application to the program administrator at least one month prior to the June 30th deadline to allow time for the necessary paperwork to be processed and forwarded to your pump company. You can complete your renewal on-line at <https://services.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/renew-eligibility-pe-glucose-sensor-program-and-or-pe-insulin-pump-program#/> or you can request a paper-based renewal form from your local Diabetes Education Center.

Benefits under the Insulin Pump Program will cease for any of the following circumstances:

- if you fail to complete the required documentation for annual renewal by June 30th
- if you fail to meet the required medical eligibility criteria. The medical eligibility criteria is available on line at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pe/insulin-pump-program>
- on your 25th birthday

Other Questions to Consider:

Q: How do I know if an insulin pump is right for me / my child?

A: There are many things to consider when deciding if an insulin pump is right for you / your child. There are many advantages to insulin pump therapy but there are also potential disadvantages and important considerations to be aware of. It is best to have a discussion with your diabetes care team to make sure pump therapy is a good fit for you / your child.

Q: How will I know if I am (or my child is) medically eligible?

A: This will be decided by your Health PEI diabetes care team who specialize in insulin pump therapy. There are a number of criteria that must be met prior to being considered as a candidate for the program. You can view this list of medical eligibility criteria on the Health PEI website at, www.healthpei.ca/insulin-pump.

If there are certain areas of diabetes care that need work, your diabetes care team will assist you to achieve those goals so that you / your child can meet the eligibility requirements. The better prepared you are before starting an insulin pump, the more likely you will achieve success once started on insulin pump therapy.

Q: What if I/we have private health insurance?

A: If you have private health insurance, you should contact your insurance provider to determine how much coverage is available under your plan for both the insulin pump, the ongoing cost of pump supplies and glucose sensors. It is recommended for you to request to receive **written** notification (not just verbal), verifying the coverage available from your private health insurance. That portion will be deducted prior to establishing the out of pocket cost for you / your family.

Q: How often are copayments required?

A: For the Insulin Pump Program, copayments will be made directly to the insulin pump company. You will need to discuss any payment plans on your copayment of the pump and pump supplies with the pump company. In most circumstances you will be required to make one copayment on your insulin pump. Typically, for insulin pump supplies, a copayment is required every three months, prior to the supplies being shipped from the

company. For the Glucose Sensor Program, you purchase your sensors directly through your pharmacy (every 28 to 35 days, depending on the type of sensor) and co-payments are paid with each purchase.

Q: What happens if my financial situation or private health insurance changes?

A: If your income has dropped by 25 percent or more, or your private health insurance coverage has changed, please contact the program administrator and explain your situation. We may be able to help.

Q: Can I / we claim the copayment on an income tax return?

A: Yes, you can claim your copayment as a medical expense on your tax return. For more information please contact the Canada Revenue Agency at <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html>