

Questions & Answers

Health PEI

PEI Provincial Insulin Pump Program for Children and Youth

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

A: Beginning on July 1, 2014, children and youth **under the age of 19** with type 1 diabetes in PEI can apply to the PEI Insulin Pump Program to help offset the cost associated with insulin pump therapy. Your child's diabetes care team must be satisfied that your child is a good candidate for an insulin pump before he or she can 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 90% coverage to assist with the cost of the pump and monthly pump supplies for children and youth 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 for Children and Youth:

- 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)

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 and the ongoing cost of pump supplies. 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 to the PEI Insulin Pump Program. You can get this form from your diabetes care team, or online at: www.healthpei.ca/insulin-pump. Please include a **certified copy** of your Canada Revenue Agency Income Tax return from the previous year, for you and your spouse (if applicable), with the application form. 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	90%	\$630	\$300	\$126	\$60
\$20- \$50K	80%	\$1260	\$600	\$252	\$120
\$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: 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 or pump supplies cannot be applied to the Catastrophic Drug Program “household cap”.

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

A: If you are unfamiliar with insulin pump therapy, and are unsure if it is right for your child, you should have a discussion with your child's pediatrician or diabetes physician specialist. 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, your child will be registered in the program and eligible for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program.

If your child/youth is currently on insulin pump therapy and you want to register for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program, you should complete and submit the Family Contribution Assessment Form 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 your child will be registered in the program and eligible for benefits under the Insulin Pump Program.

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

A: This will depend on the time it takes to ensure your child is prepared to use the insulin pump. Individuals must also learn about 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 between three and six months.

Questions to consider:

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

A: There are many things to consider when deciding if an insulin pump is right for 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 child's diabetes care team to make sure pump therapy is a good fit for your child.

Q: How will I know if 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 your child's diabetes care that need work, your child's diabetes care team will assist you to achieve those goals so that your child can meet the eligibility requirements. The better prepared you are before starting an insulin pump, the more likely your child is to achieve success once he or she starts insulin pump therapy.

Q: What if we have private 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 and the ongoing cost of pump supplies. 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 your family.

Q: How often do we make copayments?

A: 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.

Q: What happens if our family's financial situation or private health care insurance changes?

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

Q: Can 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 (www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

Q: We purchased an insulin pump prior to July 1, 2014. Can we still qualify for the program?

A: There is no period of retroactivity for those who have already purchased an insulin pump prior to the program implementation on July 1, 2014. However, if your child meets the eligibility requirements, they can apply for coverage for their ongoing insulin pump supplies up to the date of their 19th birthday.