

Expanded Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Advanced Glucose Monitors

Date issued: March 16, 2023

Manitoba Health has [expanded coverage for eligible Manitobans with Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes to access advanced glucose monitors and/or insulin pumps](#)

For individuals with Type 1 Diabetes, coverage has been expanded to include insulin pumps for all eligible adults over the age of 18. Individuals are also eligible for coverage of advanced glucose monitors under the provincial Pharmacare program.

For eligible individuals with Type 2 Diabetes, coverage has been expanded to include advanced glucose monitors under the provincial Pharmacare program and may include coverage of an insulin pump where indicated by clinical criteria.

The specific details of the expanded coverage, including clinical criteria, patient education information, and access to these devices, will evolve and updates will be provided as they are available.

For providers, we are able to confirm that the following changes have taken effect:

Insulin Pumps – Changes Effective **March 7, 2023**

- [Updated Clinical Standards](#) have been posted specific to eligibility and safe prescribing of insulin pump therapy for adults with Type 1 Diabetes.
 - The updated standards expanded the list of eligible prescribers of an insulin pump to include endocrinologists as well as a program-approved Diabetes Specialist.
 - Additional information for providers interested in becoming a diabetes specialist will be coming soon.
- Patient information, including frequently asked questions and a patient handout have been developed and are [available here](#).
- Additional provider information related to these changes will be regularly [updated here](#).

Please note: Coverage for insulin pumps will continue to require pre-approval through Manitoba Health. Authorized prescribers will be required to submit the Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program Coverage Application Form, which can be accessed in a Manitoba-certified Electronic Medical Record via the Manitoba Forms Repository. Approval will be based on information submitted by an eligible healthcare provider.

Advanced Glucose Monitors – Changes Effective **March 14, 2023**

- The requirement for pre-approval of advanced glucose monitors has been eliminated. Patients who meet the [provincial pharmacare criteria](#) (patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes currently on both basal and bolus insulin or using an insulin pump) may be provided a prescription for a continuous glucose monitor from any authorized prescriber.

- Similarly, the requirement for an EDS form to be completed by an endocrinologist will be removed. Eligible Type 1 and Type 2 patients will be able to receive a prescription for an advanced glucose monitor from any authorized prescriber.

Pharmacare Deductible – A Reminder

While insulin pumps for eligible Manitobans will be provided at no cost (or reimbursed in full, retroactive to the effective eligibility expansion date of March 7, 2023), pump supplies and advanced glucose monitor coverage are managed by Pharmacare and will remain subject to individually assessed deductibles.

Individual patients are encouraged to ensure they are aware of any possible out-of-pocket expenses that may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Pharmacare Eligibility, coverage criteria and required forms will continue to be updated and made available here: [Pharmacare Information for Health Professionals | Health | Province of Manitoba \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/information-for-health-professionals)

Patient Education and Orientation - Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program Expansion

Use of insulin pumps safely requires appropriate patient education. This expanded coverage and eligibility is expected to result in a patient population that is not currently using an insulin pump, seeking access to this device. To support this population in accessing education and orientation that will enable safe use of the device, the [Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program \(MAIPP\)](#), will be expanding to serve all eligible Manitobans, 18 years of age and older.

Additional educational and staffing resources will be added to the MAIPP to support the anticipated increase in patient referrals. This education and training will be standardized with effort made to develop educational and training resources that will allow adult patients from across Manitoba to access and begin safe use of their pumps. Remote and rural accessibility is a priority area of focus in the development of these educational and training resources.

The MAIPP is intended to support any patient who would benefit from additional education, multidisciplinary support and guidance to optimize their glycemic control, as well as those who are unsure what choice of insulin pump is best suited to them. For those patients who do require the specialized supports of the MAIPP, operational and clinic resources are being added to ensure capacity and alignment with the expanded eligibility for government-funded insulin pumps.

Not all patients will need to be referred to the MAIPP. Many patients, including those currently using an insulin pump safely, will continue to be supported by their existing endocrinologists/diabetes care teams and do not require the services of the MAIPP.

Details on referring a patient to the MAIPP can be accessed through the referral form available on the Manitoba Forms Repository.

Insulin Pump Prescribers

As MAIPP expands, a process to recognize primary care physicians who are experienced in pump therapy and the care of those with Type 1 diabetes, will be developed. This process will identify providers as program-approved diabetes specialists who will be able to complete the pre-approval process for patients who are clinically appropriate for an insulin pump and refer patients to the MAIPP. It is anticipated that this expanded group of authorized prescribers will expand access to diabetes resources throughout the province and enable patients to access care, including an insulin pump, closer to home.

Providers interested in prescribing insulin pumps will be reviewed case-by-case by the Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Medical Director and/or an advisory committee comprised of hospital and community-based endocrinologists. An application and competency-based assessment will be required to ensure clinicians can prescribe to patients safely.

Please note that the MAIPP currently has limited capacity to provide support and education to clinicians interested in becoming diabetes specialists. As additional resources, details, and information on this process are established, further communication will be shared.

Additional information for providers will be coming soon. Specific questions may be directed to insulinpumpprogram@sharedhealthmb.ca. Responses will be compiled and information added to the provider FAQ.

We appreciate your support as we work to optimize the delivery of timely services in the province based on current, evidence-based practice.

Thank you for your continued partnership in improving diabetes care in Manitoba.

Contact Information:

Dr. Pamela Katz, Medical Director, Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program Head,
Section of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Department of Internal Medicine
University of Manitoba

Jennifer Spencer, Executive Director, Health Services HSC Winnipeg