

For Health Care Providers - Frequently Asked Questions

Expanded Adult Eligibility for Insulin Pumps

Updated Clinical Prescribing Standard Criteria for Adult Patients with Type 1 Diabetes

The following information is intended to support conversations with patients/family members with Type 1 Diabetes.

Manitoba has expanded eligibility for Insulin Pump coverage to include all eligible adults with Type 1 Diabetes.

- **Previous age eligibility criteria:** Adults at least 18 years of age and no more than 25 years of age, who meet the clinical criteria.
- **Updated age eligibility criteria:** Eligible adults 18 years of age and over, who meet the clinical criteria.

The authorized prescriber group for Insulin Pumps has also been expanded. In addition to Endocrinologists, prescriber eligibility has been expanded, to allow other “Diabetes Specialists”, defined as a general internist or family physician who meets certain criteria, to prescribe insulin pump therapy for adults with type 1 diabetes.

The updated Provincial Clinical Prescribing Standard for Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion (Insulin Pump) Therapy for Adult Patients with Type 1 Diabetes can be found on [Shared Health Clinical Projects, Standards, and Guidelines](#).

Clinics and health-care providers can expect to receive questions from patients and their family members about the updated access and eligibility for these programs.

Additional questions, not able to be answered by your clinic/office, should be directed to the Manitoba Pharmacare Program at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/>.

When does the age eligibility expansion of the program take effect?

- This expanded adult coverage takes effect March 7, 2023, and will be reimbursed retroactive to this date for eligible expenses.
- Insulin pump coverage for eligible clients 17 years of age and younger will continue to be provided through the Manitoba Pediatric Insulin Pump Program.

Who is eligible for a funded insulin pump/who is eligible to complete the pre-approval form?

- Patients with Type 1 Diabetes and who are 18 years of age and older, may be eligible for an insulin pump.
- Patients will require pre-approval before ordering/accessing an insulin pump. Pre-approval requires the completion of the Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program Coverage Application

Form by an endocrinologist or approved Diabetes Specialist. The form can be found in the Manitoba Forms Repository.

- A “Diabetes Specialist,” is defined as a general internist or family physician who meets the criteria set out by [Shared Health Prescribing Standards for Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion \(Insulin Pump\) Therapy for Adult Patients with Type 1 Diabetes](#).

Are Manitoba residents attending post-secondary education in another Canadian Province, eligible for insulin pump coverage?

- Yes, if an individual is still registered with Manitoba Health and only residing in another province for the purpose of study and have not been enrolled in another provincial insurance program.

What are the steps for accessing an insulin pump?

- Patients and their provider will assess if insulin pump therapy is appropriate for their care and if they meet the established provincial clinical criteria.
- Pre-approval is required. For patients deemed eligible and appropriate for insulin pump use, the endocrinologist or Diabetes Specialist will use 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
- Once approved, both provider and patient will receive a letter indicating the approval. This letter will be required when the patient orders their chosen device from those covered.
- Patients in need of support when making their choice of pump should refer to [this brochure](#).
- If the use of an insulin pump is new for your patient, they will be required to participate in education and orientation to ensure the safe use of their pump.
- Please work with your patient to assess where/how they should receive education and orientation on insulin pumps; this might be through hospital-based education, community diabetes resources or private/vendor-sponsored pump trainers. The MAIPP team is working on a decision-making algorithm to help providers determine the most appropriate education stream for their patients.
- **Patients should be reminded not to begin using an insulin pump before completing appropriate orientation and education.**

Who is providing the education on safe insulin pump use?

- Standardized education and materials are being developed by the [Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program](#).
- Individuals who have previously used an insulin pump will not be required to repeat their education unless they are experiencing challenges or need some additional support.
- **Patients should not start using their insulin pump without proper training.**

What patients should be referred to the Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program?

- The Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Program will be supporting an expanded patient population as a result of these new criteria. This support will be added in stages, with the initial focus on the 18-25 year old population, followed by the expanded Adult Type 1

Diabetes population.

- Individuals who have not had prior experience with an insulin pump, or are experiencing issues with frequent high blood sugars or hypoglycemia (low sugar events) can be referred for additional education and support to optimize their Diabetes control and safe insulin pump use.
- Patients who are unsure what choice of insulin pump is best suited to them can be referred for further education about the available options and their unique features. A list of available pumps can be found [here](#).
- Patients already under the care of an endocrinologist and with experience using an insulin pump safely and effectively do not require a referral to the MAIPP.

Which insulin pumps will be covered under the expanded program?

- The insulin pumps covered by the program are listed [here](#).
- More information on these pumps is available on the suppliers' website below.
 - Omnipod® | <https://www.omnipod.com/en-ca>
 - Tandem Diabetes Care | <https://www.tandemdiabetes.com/en-ca/home>
 - Medtronic | <https://www.medtronic.com/ca-en/diabetes/home.html>
 - Ypsomed Selfcare Solutions | <https://www.ypsomed.com/en-CA/>

Information on these sites should not be used as a substitute for talking with your doctor. Always talk with your healthcare provider about diagnosis and treatment information.

Is there a Pharmacare deductible for insulin pump coverage?

- No, for individuals who meet the criteria, their insulin pump will be covered in full.

Is there a deductible for insulin pump supplies?

- Yes. Insulin pump supplies are subject to deductibles along with other consumable diabetes supplies (like blood glucose test strips).

How often can an insulin pump be replaced?

- For eligible patients a new pump can be accessed every 5 years.
- If your patient has purchased a pump out-of-pocket in the past 5 years and it stops working, they may be eligible for a funded replacement.

If a patient has an insulin pump; can they receive a second at no cost?

- Access is dependent on eligibility. If it has been five years since a patient last received an insulin pump, and they remain eligible, they would be covered under the expanded program.

How do I become an approved “Diabetes Specialist”?

- “Diabetes specialists” must meet all the following criteria:
 - Ability to refer to a Certified Diabetes Educator (with pump competency and training);
 - Applicant must engage in a minimum of 1 pump start per quarter to maintain certification/competence.

- Ongoing compliance with the [Shared Health Prescribing Standards for Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion \(Insulin Pump\) Therapy for Adult Patients with Type 1 Diabetes](#)
- Participation in reporting and periodic review for renewal of certification.
- Clinicians interested in providing insulin pumps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Medical Director and/or advisory committee.
- An application and competency-based assessment will be required to ensure clinicians can prescribe to patients, safely.
- Additional information on this process will be shared in the coming weeks.