

CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITOR AND INSULIN PUMP COMPARISON

Variations in coverage across Canada

JULY 2025



Diabetes Canada represents the voices of over four million individuals living with diabetes in Canada, and more who will be diagnosed with this complex condition in the coming years. Every three minutes someone else is diagnosed with diabetes in Canada. This rising prevalence of diabetes underscores the urgent need for accessible and comprehensive diabetes management and support systems.

On February 29, 2024, the Federal Government announced its intention to establish a fund to support access to diabetes devices and supplies. While Diabetes Canada is encouraged by this announcement, we also recognized the need to advocate for its implementation to ease the burdens of cost and other barriers to access for people living with diabetes.

Federal, provincial and territorial formularies show great variation in the lists of supplies and medical devices covered. While every province or territory has a variation of a device and/or supply fund, each one is different and do not provide the same coverage. Access to these items depends as much on where someone lives in Canada as it does on a person's income or health status.

Support for the Federal Diabetes Device Fund is critical. People with diabetes need timely access to supplies and devices that can improve their quality of life and potentially reduce or delay the onset of serious complications.

Ultimately, medical devices such as continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for people living with type 1 and 2 diabetes and insulin pumps for people living with type 1 diabetes are becoming essential to the day-to-day management of diabetes for many people in Canada.

Monitoring your blood sugar (glucose) levels can help you manage your diabetes better, improve quality of life and can prevent life-threatening emergencies and complications.

As such, the Federal Diabetes Device Fund has the potential to save the health-care systems millions of dollars by way of fewer doctor visits, medical interventions and hospital stays. Federal, provincial and territorial governments should commit to the development of an effective system (or systems), consistent with Diabetes Canada's Clinical Practice Guidelines and which do not create additional barriers to access.

For the past decade, Diabetes Canada has focused on advocacy efforts on increasing access to diabetes medications, devices and supplies (See the following list which outlines our activities). We continue to advocate at the provincial and territorial level to remove all restrictions and provide access to all people living with diabetes who could benefit from a device. That is also why, we, at Diabetes Canada, know support for the new Federal Device Access Fund is critically needed.

Insulin Pump and CGM Comparison

Province	Insulin Pump (PW T1D)	rtCGM	isCGM
British Columbia	All ages who meet criteria. A two-tiered system with tier one pump fully covered after their deductible has been paid and tier two pump available with Special Authority (SA) approval according to BC PharmaCare	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 diabetes requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria for ages 2 and older who meet SA criteria under BC Pharmacare	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 requiring basal and bolus insulins or an insulin pump who meet criteria for ages 4 and older who meet SA criteria under BC Pharmacare
Alberta	All ages who meet criteria under the Diabetes Insulin Pump Therapy Program	Coverage for all ages for type 1 or type 2 diabetes requiring ongoing insulin therapy (for over 18 either basal insulin and a bolus insulin; or a premixed insulin) or insulin pump therapy.	Coverage for type 1 or type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring insulin pump therapy; a basal insulin and a bolus insulin; or a premixed insulin.
Saskatchewan	All ages who meet criteria under the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) Insulin Pump Program	Coverage under age 18 type 1 or type 2 diabetes requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria	Coverage under age 18 for type 1 or type 2 diabetes requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria
Manitoba	- All ages who meet criteria. - For adults aged 18 and over, criteria is based on the Manitoba Adult Insulin Pump Coverage Program - For individuals under the age of 17, criteria is based on the Manitoba Pediatric Insulin Pump Program	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump as per rules of MB Pharmacare	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 for all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or an insulin pump
Ontario	All ages who meet criteria under the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)	- Coverage by ODSP for eligible clients of all ages living with type 1 diabetes - Coverage by Assistive Devices Program for type 1 diabetes of all ages who meet criteria	Coverage by the Ontario Drug Benefit program for type 1 and type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring any insulin

CGM and Insulin Pump Comparison

Province	Insulin Pump (PW T1D)	rtCGM	isCGM
New Brunswick	• All ages who meet criteria under The New Brunswick Insulin Pump Program (IPP) • The client/family is responsible for a portion of the equipment and supplies based on income • The calculation for the client/family contribution considers information such as household income, family size and the selected device	• Coverage under the Insulin Pump Program for type 1 and type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria	• No coverage
Prince Edward Island	• All ages who meet criteria under the Prince Edward Island Insulin Pump Program	• Coverage for type 1 or type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria • Co-pay is calculated based on household income and existence of private insurance with Special Authority approval	• Coverage for type 1 or type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria • Co-pay is calculated based on household income and existence of private insurance with Special Authority approval
Nova Scotia	• All ages who meet criteria under the Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program (NSIPP)	• Coverage for type 1 or type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria	• Coverage for type 1 or type 2 diabetes of all ages requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump who meet criteria
Newfoundland and Labrador	• Age 17 and under who meet criteria • Age 18-24 who are already in the program • Age 18 and over who are not already enrolled in the program and meet criteria will be income tested	• Coverage under the Insulin Pump Program for type 1 diabetes of all ages who meet criteria	• No coverage

CGM and Insulin Pump Comparison

Province	Insulin Pump (PW T1D)	rtCGM	isCGM
Yukon	All ages who meet criteria	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 diabetes requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump	Coverage for children and adults aged 2 and up living with type 1 diabetes
Northwest Territories	All ages who meet criteria	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 diabetes requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump	Covered on a case-by-case basis
Nunavut	All ages who meet criteria	Coverage for type 1 and type 2 diabetes requiring basal and bolus insulins or insulin pump	Covered on a case-by-case basis
Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NHIB)	All ages who meet criteria. Full coverage for those recommended by an endocrinologist	Coverage for continuous glucose monitoring is available for children and adolescents 19 years of age or younger on intensive insulin therapy (administration of short-acting insulin three or more times per day) and all patients with type 1 type 1 and 2 diabetes requiring insulin.	Coverage for continuous glucose monitoring is available for children and adolescents 19 years of age or younger on intensive insulin therapy (administration of short-acting insulin three or more times per day) and all patients with type 1 type 1 and 2 diabetes requiring insulin.
Federal	- Federal government is announcing its intention to establish a fund to support access to diabetes devices and supplies - Further details regarding this fund will be provided following discussions with PT partners, who will be essential partners to its roll out https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/universal-access-to-diabetes-medications-and-diabetes-device-fund-for-devices-and-supplies.html	- Federal government is announcing its intention to establish a fund to support access to diabetes devices and supplies - Further details regarding this fund will be provided following discussions with PT partners, who will be essential partners to its roll out https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/universal-access-to-diabetes-medications-and-diabetes-device-fund-for-devices-and-supplies.html	- Federal government is announcing its intention to establish a fund to support access to diabetes devices and supplies - Further details regarding this fund will be provided following discussions with PT partners, who will be essential partners to its roll out https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/universal-access-to-diabetes-medications-and-diabetes-device-fund-for-devices-and-supplies.html



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