

## SASKATCHEWAN INSULIN PUMP PROGRAM

The Saskatchewan Insulin Pump Program was established to ensure that cost is not a barrier to clients 25 years of age and under who require an insulin pump to manage their diabetes. Under this program, eligible beneficiaries will receive an insulin pump (covered up to a maximum of \$6,300) through the [Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Program](#) (SAIL) and financial assistance with the cost of the pump supplies through the Saskatchewan Drug Plan (based on income/expenses under the Special Support Program).

### Criteria for coverage of insulin pumps and supplies:

- The applicant must be 25 years of age and under, have a valid Saskatchewan Health Card and have Type 1 diabetes. Note: clients eligible for benefits under federal government programs e.g. NIHB are not eligible for coverage of insulin pumps under this program.
- Use of an insulin pump as a medical necessity must be recommended by an endocrinologist or another specialist physician who is associated with a regional health authority diabetes program and who has experience with insulin pump management in individuals 25 years of age and under.
- Applicants who meet **one or more** of the following criteria will be eligible under the program:
  1. Unable to consistently achieve the recommended HgbA<sub>1c</sub> target value (i.e. 9.0% or less for children under five years of age; 8.0% or less for children five years of age to 17 years of age and 7% or less for individuals 18 years of age or older) despite concerted efforts of the individual and/or family to achieve glycemic control through:
    - ❑ strong consistency with carbohydrate counting and matching of insulin with carbohydrate intake
    - ❑ frequent blood glucose monitoring with recording of results
    - ❑ a multiple daily injection regimen wherein insulin is administered with meals and snacks.
  2. Experience frequent severe hypoglycemic events.
  3. Have marked insulin sensitivity or resistance, uncharacteristic for age and stage of diabetes.
  4. Have unpredictable large swings in blood glucose levels, with or without a Dawn phenomenon.
- The applicant must be assessed by a regional health authority diabetes program and participate in a diabetes education program.
- The applicant must participate in a regional health authority insulin pump information program.

### **Process to obtain coverage of insulin pumps and supplies:**

- The regional health authority diabetes program will determine the above criteria have been met and forward a completed application to the pump supplier selected by the applicant.
- The applicant will begin up to a three month trial period with the trial pump and supplies provided to the applicant by the pump supplier.
- The regional health authority diabetes program confirms to SAIL and the supplier that the trial of the pump has been successful. The supplier then invoices SAIL to receive payment for the pump. The supplier is reimbursed by SAIL.
- SAIL notifies the Saskatchewan Drug Plan that the application has been received.
- Coverage for pump supplies under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan's [Exception Drug Status](#) program is processed and approval letters are sent to the applicant and physician. This coverage is effective from the date the application is received at SAIL following the trial period. Special Support coverage is reassessed if required.

### **Coverage requested by out of province physicians:**

Coverage will be provided to clients who meet Saskatchewan's program criteria and have their application completed by an endocrinologist or another specialist physician licensed to practice in Canada and who has experience with insulin pump management in individuals 25 years of age and under.

### **Coverage of supplies for applicants who were established on a pump prior to January 1, 2012:**

Those individuals who had previously received benefits under the Children's Insulin Pump program will be contacted by the Drug Plan and Extended Health Benefits Branch to determine whether they still may be eligible for benefits under the expanded Saskatchewan Insulin Pump Program.

In order to qualify for coverage of pump supplies, applicants who did not have previous coverage under the program will be required to meet the same criteria as new applicants (i.e. recommended for insulin pump therapy by a regional health authority diabetes program in consultation with a physician specialist and a completed application forwarded with the relevant information).



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