

Insulin Pump Therapy Program – Eligibility Criteria

A patient must meet both the Eligibility Criteria, as outlined herein, and the Clinical Criteria developed by Alberta Health Services (AHS). The Eligibility and Clinical Criteria may be changed from time to time. The Insulin Pump Therapy (IPT) Program is delivered by AHS, with claims administration by Alberta Blue Cross (ABC) and administrative support from Alberta Health.

1. General eligibility criteria

- a. The patient must be a resident of Alberta who is eligible for coverage under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.
- b. The patient must be diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus and be under the care of a physician or nurse practitioner for the condition.
- c. Notwithstanding anything in these criteria, priority to participate in the IPT Program may be determined based on patient clinical necessity, as determined by AHS.
- d. A patient that is not currently using an insulin pump is considered to be a “New Insulin Pump Therapy (IPT) User” and must complete the steps outlined in Section 2 – “Process for New IPT Users” to qualify for an insulin pump and IPT supplies under the IPT Program.
- e. A patient who has been using an insulin pump as of the implementation date (June 1, 2013) of the IPT Program is considered to be an “Existing IPT User” and must complete the steps outlined in Section 3 – “Process for Existing IPT Users” to qualify for IPT supplies under the IPT Program.
- f. Patients must attend an assessment, and any required reassessment visits, at one of the Adult or Pediatric Diabetes Insulin Pump Clinics (“Clinic”) approved by AHS to deliver the IPT Program.
 - i. The Clinic will conduct clinical assessments, insulin pump starts, and clinical reassessments, under the IPT Program. Assessments and reassessments will be conducted at the Clinic by a team of diabetes health professionals consisting of a physician specializing in diabetes, a registered dietician, registered nurse, and other health professionals as needed.

2. Process for new IPT users

- a. A New IPT User will be eligible, from the date stated in their Confirmation Letter (New IPT User), for an insulin pump every five years, and IPT supplies on an ongoing basis, unless they are discontinued from the IPT Program.
- b. Patients must complete a pre-insulin pump information session arranged through the Clinic.
- c. Patients must then seek and obtain a referral to the IPT Program from a physician or nurse practitioner.
- d. Subsequent to their referral to the Clinic, which will be documented by the Clinic, patients will be assessed in two stages by the team of health professionals at the Clinic:
 - i. First, by a physician specializing in diabetes who will assess whether the patient meets the clinical criteria for patient assessment, as developed by AHS.

- ii. Second, patients will be required to participate in ongoing clinical monitoring and to complete an IPT education plan.
- e. Patients that have met all applicable Eligibility Criteria will be deemed ready to start IPT and must complete a Patient Responsibility Form.
- f. Upon receipt of the Patient Responsibility Form, the Clinic will complete an IPT Program Eligibility Notification Form for the New IPT User and fax the form to Alberta Blue Cross (ABC).
- g. Upon receipt and confirmation of the contents of the IPT Program Eligibility Notification Form, ABC will mail a Confirmation Letter (New IPT User) to the patient and the Clinic to confirm the patient's enrolment in the IPT Program. The patient will be deemed enrolled in the IPT Program effective from the date stated in their Confirmation Letter.
- h. The Confirmation Letter will advise the New IPT User as follows:
 - i. The products they are eligible for.
 - ii. Information on how to obtain an insulin pump and IPT supplies.
- i. Once enrolled, adult New IPT Users must attend annual reassessments, and New IPT Users under the age of 18 must attend semi-annual reassessments, at the Clinic.
- j. Patients that do not meet the clinical criteria for patient assessment at either assessment stage will receive a Letter of Clinical Ineligibility from the Clinic.
- k. At the discretion of the diabetes health care professionals at the Clinic, a New IPT User may be discontinued from the IPT Program where it is determined that the patient meets one or more of the clinical criteria for discontinuation, as developed by AHS.
 - i. The Clinic will fax a Patient Discontinuation Form to ABC to terminate IPT supply coverage for the patient. Discontinued New IPT Users will receive an AHS Patient Discontinuation Letter from the Clinic indicating that they are no longer eligible for coverage under the IPT Program, effective from the date stated in the Discontinuation Letter.

3. Process for existing IPT users

- a. An Existing IPT User will be eligible for IPT supplies for five years from the date stated in their Confirmation Letter (Existing IPT User).
- b. A physician or nurse practitioner must complete an IPT Supply Authorization Request Form for the patient. The referring physician or nurse practitioner should confirm that patient had an insulin pump prior to June 1, 2013 through reviewing patient records, or asking the patient to provide a copy of their receipt for insulin pump purchase.
- c. The physician or nurse practitioner must then fax the Supply Authorization Request Form to ABC. Upon receipt and confirmation of the contents of the Supply Authorization Request Form, ABC will mail a Confirmation Letter (Existing IPT User) to the patient and the referring physician or nurse practitioner, which confirms the patient's enrolment in the IPT Program for supplies only. The patient will be deemed enrolled in the IPT Program effective from the date stated in their Confirmation Letter.
- d. The Confirmation Letter will advise the Existing IPT User as follows:
 - i. The products they are eligible for.
 - ii. Eligibility for IPT supplies will be for 5 years from the date stated in their Confirmation Letter.

- iii. Information on how to obtain IPT supplies.
- iv. In order to be eligible for IPT supplies beyond the initial five years, and be eligible for a replacement insulin pump by the time their existing insulin pump is five years old, the Existing IPT User is responsible for following the steps outlined in Section 2 for New IPT Users, beginning by obtaining a referral to the IPT Program from a physician or nurse practitioner. The Existing IPT User must have an assessment under the IPT Program completed by the time the Existing IPT User's existing insulin pump is five years old. Existing IPT Users are encouraged to begin the process far in advance, and continued coverage is not guaranteed.
- e. Existing IPT Users that have met all applicable Eligibility Criteria will be deemed ready to be enrolled in the IPT Program as a New IPT User, and must complete a Patient Responsibility Form. Upon completion of the steps outlined in Section 2f, ABC will terminate the Existing IPT User's enrollment in the IPT Program as an Existing IPT User, and enrol them in the IPT Program as a New IPT User. The steps outlined in Section 2g-2i, and 2k, must then be followed.
- f. If a physician or nurse practitioner will not complete the Supply Authorization Request Form, the patient will not be eligible for coverage of IPT supplies.
- g. If an Existing IPT User is assessed through the Clinic prior to their coverage as an Existing IPT User expiring, and is deemed ineligible for the IPT Program as a New IPT User, the Clinic will fax a Patient Discontinuation Form to ABC to terminate IPT supply coverage for the patient. The patient will receive an AHS Patient Discontinuation/Ineligibility Letter from the Clinic indicating that they are no longer eligible for coverage under the IPT Program, effective from the date stated in the Discontinuation Letter, and that they are ineligible for coverage of a new insulin pump and ongoing supplies under the IPT Program.
- h. If an Existing IPT User chooses not to follow the steps outlined in Section 2, the Existing IPT User's coverage for IPT supplies will automatically expire five years from the date stated in their Confirmation Letter and they will receive no further communication from ABC or the IPT Program.

4. Coverage

- a. New and Existing IPT Users will be eligible for coverage of an insulin pump and/or IPT supplies (as applicable), subject to the limitations outlined below, unless they are discontinued from the IPT Program.
- b. Enrolment in the IPT Program will be effective the date stated in their Confirmation Letter.
- c. Funding will not be provided to reimburse the cost of an insulin pump or IPT supplies purchased by patients prior to being enrolled in the IPT Program.
- d. The Minister has the right to refuse to pay claims made for an insulin pump and/or IPT supplies in his sole discretion, including, but not limited to, for reasons relating to wastage or fraud.
- e. Insulin Pump Availability:
 - i. New IPT Users will be eligible for a replacement insulin pump every five years from the date the previous insulin pump was delivered from the insulin pump manufacturer.

- ii. Insulin pumps must be obtained directly from one of the approved insulin pump manufacturers, on a direct bill basis, in order to be covered under the IPT Program.
 - iii. Insulin pumps covered under the IPT Program come with a warranty by the insulin pump manufacturer.
 - iv. Where the New IPT User has a defective insulin pump, the New IPT User should contact the insulin pump manufacturer for replacement or repair pursuant to the terms and conditions of the manufacturer's warranty.
 - v. Where an insulin pump manufacturer refuses to provide a replacement insulin pump or repair a defective insulin pump, the New IPT User should contact ABC, who will contact the Pharmaceutical Funding and Guidance (PFG) Branch of Alberta Health. The Executive Director, PFG Branch, Health Benefits and Compliance Division, Alberta Health at its sole discretion may authorize ABC to provide coverage for a new replacement insulin pump for the New IPT User.
- f. IPT Supplies:
- i. New and Existing IPT Users will receive coverage for the following IPT supplies, subject to the quantity or monetary limits below, unless they are discontinued from the IPT Program:
 - Infusion sets: up to 100 units per 100 days
 - Insulin cartridges / reservoirs / pods: up to 100 units per 100 days
 - Serters: up to 1 unit per year
 - Skin preparation (dressings, skin adhesives and adhesive removers): up to \$100 per year
 - Blood glucose test strips: up to 700 units per 100 days
 - Blood ketone test strips: up to 20 units per 100 days
 - Blood ketone test meter: up to 1 unit every 2 years
 - Lancets: up to 700 units per 100 days
 - Insulin syringes or Pen tip needles: up to 100 units per 100 days
 - ii. IPT supplies must be obtained from a licensed pharmacy in Alberta and/or one of the approved insulin pump manufacturers, on a direct bill basis, in order to be covered under the IPT Program.
 - iii. Where a New or Existing IPT user has requested an exception to the IPT supply limits set out above, the IPT User should contact the pharmacy or insulin pump manufacturer from whom the supplies were obtained, and they will contact ABC. ABC will contact the PFG Branch of Alberta Health. The Executive Director, PFG Branch, Health Benefits and Compliance Division, Alberta Health at its sole discretion may authorize ABC to provide coverage for IPT supplies outside of the above mentioned limits.
- g. Coverage under the IPT Program is provided on a direct bill basis to pharmacies and/or insulin pump manufacturers only. Patients will not be reimbursed for IPT supplies or an insulin pump paid by them personally.