

INSIPP

Nova Scotia
**Insulin
PUMP
Program**
(NSIPP)

April 2015

The information in this booklet is subject
to change and does not replace the
Health Services and Insurance Act.

The Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program (NSIPP)

We know that Nova Scotians with diabetes want access to the treatment options that work for them, but insulin pumps and pump supplies can be expensive. That's why the Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program was created. Our program helps Nova Scotians who are less than 26 years of age with the cost of insulin pumps and pump supplies.

The program is based on family income and family size. Families with lower incomes will receive the most help through our program. This is to ensure we can help the people who can least afford to pay.

The program is administered by the **IWK Health Centre** on behalf of the **Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness**.

Who is eligible to apply?

To apply for help with the cost of an insulin pump and/or pump supplies, you must:

- Be a permanent Nova Scotia resident, and
- Have a valid Nova Scotia Health Card, and
- Have type 1 diabetes, and
- Be age-eligible at any point during the calendar year (January 1-December 31) for which you are applying.
 - Under the age of 26 (i.e., 0-25)

If you have just moved to Nova Scotia, make sure to get your Nova Scotia Health Card before applying to our program.

What will it cost?

The program pays for part of the cost of an insulin pump and/or pump supplies, for those who qualify. You pay a portion of the costs through a copayment, which is based on your family size and family income. You can estimate your copayment by using the calculator on our website: novascotia.ca/dhw/nsipp.

What is covered?

The Nova Scotia Insulin Pump program will pay a portion of the cost of insulin pumps and pump supplies for children, youth, and young adults.

Coverage for children/youth/young adults who are less than 26 years of age includes:

- One insulin pump every five years
- Insulin pump supplies including insertion sets, cartridges/reservoirs, tapes and skin preparation.

What is not covered?

The program does not cover:

- Diabetes medication (insulin or oral medications)
- Blood glucose meters, test strips, and lancets
- Ketone test strips (urine or blood)
- Continuous glucose monitoring systems
- Batteries
- The cost of lost/stolen insulin pumps and/or supplies

Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare can help with the cost of insulin, oral medication, glucose test strips and lancets, and urine ketone test strips as well as other medications.

Calculating your copayment

Your copayments for an insulin pump and/or pump supplies are calculated each year. They are based on your family income and family size.

Here's how we calculate your family income and family size:

We use your net income, minus your total payable taxes, from your most recent Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment to calculate your income. If you have a spouse, his or her income will be included as well. Other family members do not have to report their income.

We also consider the size of your family. We reduce the total family income by \$3,000 for your spouse and each dependant, and use the final, reduced amount to calculate your copayment.

You don't need to do all this yourself! We have an online calculator available on our website that you can use to estimate your copayment – please visit novascotia.ca/dhw/nsipp.

How to enrol

Applying for NSIPP coverage is a 2-step process.

Step 1a: Complete the application form AND attach a copy of the most recent Notice of Assessment(s) for you and your spouse or partner. Mail or fax these items to:

Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program

PO Box 9700, Halifax, NS B3K 6R8

Fax: 902-420-0491

Step 1b: Once your application has been processed, you will receive a letter confirming the amount of your copayment. With this letter will be a *Financial Agreement* that you **must review, sign, and return to the NSIPP Coordinator.**

Step 2: Once you have signed and returned the *Financial Agreement*, your NSIPP-approved Diabetes Centre will contact you to make an appointment. Work with your Diabetes Health Care Team, including your diabetes specialist, to complete a medical eligibility assessment and submit the *Medical Eligibility Form*.

Medical Eligibility Assessment:

If you have never used an insulin pump before, you will work with your Diabetes Health Care Team to prepare for pump therapy. When your team is confident that you can manage your diabetes safely with an insulin pump, they will complete the *Medical Eligibility Form* and send it to the NSIPP Coordinator.

If you are already using pump therapy, you will work with your Diabetes Health Care Team to complete the *Medical Eligibility Form*.

You will be able to choose the model of pump you prefer. Your Diabetes Health Care Team will show you all the available pumps and help you with this decision.

Receiving your insulin pump and/or pump supplies

Once your enrolment is confirmed, the NSIPP Coordinator will send your contact information to the insulin pump company of your choice, and the company will contact you about your insulin pump and/or pump supplies. You'll make your copayment to the company, and they will send your pump and/or pump supplies directly to you.

Annual Renewal

Each year in September, we will send a letter of renewal to everyone enrolled in the program. **By Dec. 31 of each year, you will be required to:**

- 1. Re-apply for coverage between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31.** We will reassess your family income and family size to determine if there is a change in your copayment. You will need your Canada Revenue Agency *Notice of Assessment* from the previous year. If you don't have your *Notice of Assessment*, please contact the Canada Revenue Agency.
- 2. Work with your Diabetes Health Care Team to renew your medical eligibility.** They will ensure that you are continuing to manage your diabetes safely using your insulin pump.

Frequently asked questions

How do I know if an insulin pump is right for me?

Talk to your Diabetes Health Care Team. They can explain what a pump is and how it works. They also have videos for families that discuss the benefits and challenges of pump therapy, safety and cost considerations, the role of the team, and the processes used to start insulin pump therapy in Nova Scotia.

How will I know if I am medically eligible?

Your Diabetes Health Care Team must be satisfied that you are a good candidate for an insulin pump before you can receive benefits through our program. Once they are confident that you know how to maintain your health with a pump, they will sign a *Medical Eligibility Form* allowing you to enrol in the program.

To find out more about the medical eligibility criteria, or to fill out the “*Are You Ready To Be A Pumper?*” self-assessment questionnaire, visit our website at novascotia.ca/dhw/nsipp. If there are some things that you need to work on or just want to understand more about insulin pumps, talk to your Diabetes Health Care Team.

What if I have private insurance?

You can apply to the program whether you have private insurance coverage or not, and you should confirm your private insurance coverage before you apply.

We'll let you know what your copayment will be, and once you've agreed to that amount

and met the eligibility criteria by working with your Diabetes Health Care Team, your selected pump company will contact you. Let them know that you have private insurance, and they will help to coordinate benefits between your insurance company and our program.

The Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program is the payer of last resort, which means your insurance company pays first, and the province assists with coverage for any portion left unpaid by private insurance, as applicable.

Contact the NSIPP Coordinator for specific information.

How often do I make copayments?

You'll make one copayment on your insulin pump. If you have applied for funding for insulin pump supplies, you'll make a copayment every three months. You'll make that copayment by credit card **directly to your insulin pump company**. You may be able to work with your pump company to set up a payment plan.

Can I claim my copayment on my income tax return?

Your copayment is considered a medical expense. For more information about how to claim these expenses, please contact the *Canada Revenue Agency*.

- Online at **www.cra-arc.gc.ca**
- By phone **1-800-959-8281**
- By teletypewriter service **1-800-665-0354**

I bought insulin pump supplies after I applied to the program but before I was fully enrolled. Will I be refunded?

The effective date for NSIPP coverage is the date that your **application was received* by the NSIPP Coordinator**. However, before coverage begins, you must meet the medical eligibility criteria (Step 2).

You will be eligible for reimbursement once your *Medical Eligibility Form* is submitted **and** you are fully enrolled in NSIPP.

If you are applying for pump supplies only or a replacement pump and supplies, please retain the original receipts for any insulin pump supplies that you purchase from the time you submit your application up to the time you are fully enrolled.

***NOTE:** If you do not meet the eligibility criteria within 6 months of applying, the effective date for coverage will be reviewed and revised to the date of enrolment (after completion of Step 2).

I am currently enrolled in the NSIPP and my finances have changed. I can no longer afford my copayment. What do I do now?

If your income has dropped by 20 per cent or more, please contact the NSIPP Coordinator and explain your situation. We may be able to help.

I am First Nations. Can I still apply?

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility requirements listed under “*Who is eligible?*”

However, **the Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program is the payer of last resort.**

If you qualify for any federal plans, apply for those first. If you are eligible for our program, the province may assist with the remaining cost.

I am living in a long-term care facility. Can I still apply?

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility requirements listed under “*Who is eligible?*”

However, **the Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program is the payer of last resort**, which means any other plans for which you qualify pay first and the province assists with coverage for any portion left unpaid, as applicable.

English is my second language – are there resources to assist me with translation?

Contact the NSIPP Coordinator for specific information about translation services. Please note that you may be required to pay for these services.

Questions?

Please contact the
NSIPP Coordinator:

By Phone

LOCAL: 902-470-6707
TOLL FREE: 1-855-306-6360

By E-mail

NSIPP@nshealth.ca

By Fax

902-420-0491

By Mail

Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program
PO Box 9700
Halifax, NS B3K 6R8

Website

novascotia.ca/dhw/nsipp

Health Card Questions

Medical Services Insurance
PO Box 500
Halifax, NS
B3J 2S1

LOCAL: 902-496-7008
TOLL FREE: 1-800-563-8880
novascotia.ca/dhw/MSI

Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment

Canada Revenue Agency
Tax Centre
PO Box 12077, Station A
St. John's, NL
A1B 3Z2

TOLL FREE: 1-800-959-8281

www.cra-arc.gc.ca

