

Insulin Pump Therapy Program changes

Effective August 1, 2022, the Government of Alberta is making changes to enhance equity of access to diabetes coverage across government-sponsored health benefit plans while optimizing fiscal feasibility and sustainability. The Insulin Pump Therapy Program (IPTP) will no longer exist as a standalone program as of August 1, 2022, and insulin pump therapy benefits will be available through the Alberta Health supplementary health benefit programs, such as Non-Group Coverage, Coverage for Seniors and the low-income health benefit programs.

To be eligible for coverage under the Alberta Health supplementary health benefit programs, new individuals require an assessment, approval and training from an Alberta Health Services (AHS) diabetes clinic prior to claiming a pump and supplies. For ongoing coverage, insulin pump users must be reviewed at least once a year by the AHS diabetes clinic. Pumps and supplies may be obtained from an Alberta-based pharmacy or one of the approved pump manufacturers.

Existing IPTP participants

All current IPTP participants will be receiving a letter advising them of the change and encouraging them to enrol in an Alberta Health supplementary health benefit program before August 1, 2022, if they wish to continue receiving coverage for insulin pump therapy benefits from the Government of Alberta. Current IPTP participants do not need to get reassessed by an AHS diabetes clinic to transition to an Alberta Health supplementary health benefit program. If they choose to sign up for Non-Group Coverage, they are eligible to have their waiting period waived by indicating "IPT program participant" under the "Name of previous insurance company" section of their Non-Group Coverage application form.

For further information on how to enroll in one of the Alberta Health supplementary health benefit programs, individuals may visit alberta.ca and search "health benefits" or call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992. Additional information about these health benefit plans can be found at alberta.ca/drug-coverage-health-benefits.aspx.

Alternatively, participants with employer sponsored health coverage may wish to confirm coverage for pumps and supplies on our member site at ab.bluecross.ca/member/online-services/member-site.php or in their benefits booklet.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

