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The Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy

OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS



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Association Canadienne des Stomothérapeutes

CANADIAN OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS

The type and availability of financial support available to Canadians living with an ostomy is greatly impacted by the province in which they reside. It is evident to the CAET that the range of financial support runs from almost complete coverage to no coverage at all. There is, in addition to this, little to no reimbursement for people who require a temporary ostomy and there is inconsistent access to Enterostomal Therapy Nurses who can provide the assessment and support for proper ostomy product selection. The CAET is committed to collaborating with aligned organizations in order to advocate for adequate reimbursement of ostomy supply costs for all those in Canada who are living with an ostomy.

The below summary of Canadian ostomy reimbursement programs, as compiled by the CAET, outlines the status of ostomy reimbursement on a national level as well as in each Canadian province and most of the territories. Individuals with private health insurance should also contact their provider for information about coverage for ostomy supplies.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT

National Disability Tax Credit:

- Tax form must be submitted to Canada Revenue Agency (and signed by an MD).
- Amount of reimbursement is based on income
- www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/qlfd-prcts/whts-eng.html

To be eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC) an individual must:

- have an impairment in physical or mental functions that is prolonged (has lasted or is expected to last for

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a continuous period of at least 12 months);

- have impairment in physical or mental functions that are severe and restrict the individual substantially at least 90% of the time;
- the severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions must be certified by a qualified practitioner using Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate. On Part B of Form T2201, the qualified practitioner (including an ET nurse) must provide details of the applicable impairment and certify the effects of the impairment and the duration.

The patient may submit a tax form to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for this credit at any time of year but CRA notes that sending in the form before filing the income tax and benefit return may prevent a delay in the tax assessment as they will review the application before assessing the return. The applicant should keep a copy of the completed form.

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB):

- 100% reimbursement when forms are completed
- Pharmacist must have a provider number
- www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Veterans:

- 100% reimbursement with appropriate forms

- www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/health/treatment-benefits/poc#poc7

Additional help and support are available across the country through Ostomy Society Canada at www.ostomycanada.ca and Intestinal Disease Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS) at www.weneedideas.com.

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PROGRAMS FOR OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT

Northwest Territories

Northwest Territories Health & Social Services
1-800-661-0830
www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

Those over the age of 60 or those registered for social assistance receive 100% coverage for prescribed supplies.

Other individuals may submit a letter from their physician to obtain approval from the Department of Health and Social Services for coverage, should this be granted, full coverage is provided.

Yukon

Yukon Chronic Disease Programs
867-667-5403
www.hss.gov.yk.ca/chronic_disease.php

Coverage provides assistance for medically-necessary devices such as ostomy supplies. To access the benefits of

CANADIAN OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS (cont.)

the Yukon Chronic Disease Programs a physician (or community health nurse in communities without a resident physician) must apply on behalf of the patient.

Applications should be made before making purchases, but in some circumstances purchase prior to approval will be reimbursed.

British Columbia

BC PharmaCare - Ministry of Health
1-800-663-7100
www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/medsup.html#ostomy

BC PharmaCare covers ostomy supplies for patients who have undergone surgery on the bowel and/or bladder that results in a colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy. Actual coverage is subject to the rules of the patient's PharmaCare plan, including any deductible requirements.

To be eligible a patient must be covered by one of the following PharmaCare plans: Fair PharmaCare; Plan B (Residential Care); Plan C (BC Income Assistance); or Plan F (At Home Program). Deductibles and coverage rates vary based on income and pertain to the total of all items covered under the plan (including ostomy supplies). See table 1.

Alberta

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)
780-427-0731
www.seniors.alberta.ca

To be eligible for the Alberta Aids to Daily Living program you must:

- Require benefits due to a long term disability (six months or longer) or have a terminal illness;
- Be an Alberta resident with a valid Alberta Personal Health Care Number;
- Be assessed by a healthcare professional who is also an AADL approved Authorizer or Specialty Assessor; and
- Meet specific eligibility criteria for the recommended benefit.

Those eligible will receive:

- 75% reimbursement of program price for ostomy supplies;
- 100% coverage if family taxable income is less than \$12,610; and
- Program will pay any amount over \$500.00 in the benefit year.

Saskatchewan:

Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living
306-787-7121
www.health.gov.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) provides the following coverage for patients with a qualifying ostomy who have been referred by an Enterostomal Therapist:

- 50% reimbursement of all ostomy supplies for registered participants; and
- Patients are required to pay the full cost of the supplies and submit receipts for reimbursement.

Manitoba

Manitoba Ostomy Program (MOP)
1-800-561-8313
www.ostomy-winnipeg.ca/woa_mop.html

The Manitoba Ostomy Program (MOP) is administered by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) and funded by Manitoba Health. It comprises two major components: Enterostomal Therapy (ET) Nursing and the provision of certain ostomy products.

Coverage is available to persons who are residents of Manitoba, are registered with Manitoba Health Services Commission, and have lost the normal function of the digestive or urinary system necessitating ostomy or fistula management or who have drainage from the respiratory or lymphatic system in a quantity necessitating use of an ostomy appliance.

Individuals are registered with the program either at the time of hospital discharge or by contacting an ET Nurse. Once an assessment by an ET Nurse has been completed then decisions are made regarding the type and quantity of supplies. Products may then be ordered on a bi-monthly basis. If a new item is requested an ET Nurse must order the item, the first time, to monitor the quantity and combination of supplies being used. Clients who are noted to be using large quantities of supplies are reassessed by the program ET Nurse.

Table 1- BC PharmaCare Coverage

Net Annual Family Income	Family Deductible	BC PharmaCare Portion	Family Maximum
Below \$15,000 / year	None	70% of prescription	2% of net income
\$15,000 - \$30,000 / year	2% of income	70% of prescription	3% of net income
Over \$30,000 / year	3% of income	70% of prescription	4% of net income

CANADIAN OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS (cont.)

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Clients may purchase non-registered items outside of program but will do so without financial assistance.

Ontario

Ontario Assistive Devices Program
1-800-268-6021
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/adp/publications/ostomy.asp

Ontario Assistive Devices Program is available to residents of Ontario with a valid Health Card issued in their name and who have a permanent colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy, ileal conduit or continent pouch/reservoir.

The program does not pay for supplies for the following:

- persons with a temporary ostomy;
- persons who reside in chronic care hospitals, Schedules I or III Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) residential facilities or people in Schedule II Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care facilities; or
- supplies available under the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) or to Group "A" Veterans for their pensioned conditions.

The program covers \$600 per year per permanent stoma (up to two ostomies at \$600 per ostomy) or \$800.00 biannually if on disability, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability support program, or for assistance to children with severe disabilities.

Québec

Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
1-800-561-9749
www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca

Voici ce que couvre ce programme :

- 700 \$ par année par stomie permanente;
- Aucune couverture pour les stomies temporaires; et
- Les bénéficiaires de prestations d'aide sociale sont évalués au cas par cas (échelle financière) à l'aide des factures (un formulaire spécifique

pour les patients stomisés doit être rempli).

Coverage under this program is as follows:

- \$700 per year per permanent stoma;
- No coverage for temporary ostomies; and
- Social aid recipients are assessed on an individual basis (financial range) with receipts (a specific form for ostomy patients must be completed).

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Medicare - Health Services Ostomy/Incontinence Program
1-888-762-8600

New Brunswick has no government coverage for the general public.

The Health Services Ostomy/Incontinence Program is available to:

- Clients of New Brunswick Medicare and their dependents; and
- Individuals who have special health needs and who qualify for assisted health care under Section 4.4 of the Family Income Security Act and Regulations

There is no cost to eligible clients for entitled ostomy, catheterization or incontinence supplies Full coverage is provided to those on social assistance. The program covers supplies directly related to the management of a colostomy, ileostomy or urostomy; internal, external or intermittent catheterization; and incontinence.

Eligible services are paid monthly but quantities and frequencies are monitored.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Department of Health and Community Services
902-424-5074
www.gov.ns.ca

The department provides 100% cover for those 65 or older and with an income below \$16,000 per year.

CANADIAN OSTOMY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS (cont.)

For all others 65 or older 66% is covered. No government coverage is provided for those under 65 in Nova Scotia.

For economically challenged people with a cancer diagnoses the Cancer Society will provide coverage.

Prince Edward Island

Emergency Assistance Program: PEI Cancer Treatment Centre
902-894-2027

www.cancercentre.pe.ca/index.php3?lang=E or <http://weneedideas.ca/prince-edward-island-ostomy-supply-coverage.php/>

PEI Cancer Emergency Assistance is a program that provides supplies for cancer patients in PEI. There is no other public assistance for ostomy supplies in PEI.

To be eligible for PEI Cancer Emergency Assistance an individual must be a resident of PEI, diagnosed with cancer, and have a total household income of less than \$25,000 for one person, less than \$30,000 for two people, or less than \$30,000 + \$2,000 per dependent for families.

Applications are processed by the PEI Division Office of the Canadian Cancer Agency. Individuals must send in a completed application, certification signed by their physician, and the most recent tax returns for all members of the household. Individuals must re-apply each year.

For eligible recipients ostomy bags, flanges, and wafers are provided for the first two years after surgery. All supplies are distributed from the PEI Division office in Charlottetown.

Newfoundland & Labrador

Ostomy Subsidiary Program - Nfld. And Labrador Prescription Branch
709-753-3615

www.gov.nl.ca/searchresults.html?q=ostomy

Those who qualify for a drug card under the 65 Plus Plan also qualify for the Ostomy Subsidy Program.

The program will reimburse for 75% of the retail cost of benefit ostomy items. The beneficiary is responsible for the remaining costs. The beneficiary is required to purchase the ostomy supplies and submit their original prescription receipts for reimbursement.

100% coverage is provided to social assistance recipients with "Drug Cards". A one-time donation of supplies is provided by the Cancer Society if diagnosis is cancer. 🌸