

## **ADULT INSULIN PUMP PROGRAM**

August 31, 2008

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Assistive Devices Program will pay 100 per cent of the price for an insulin pump. Payment of \$6,300 is made directly to the vendor of choice on the applicant's behalf once funding is approved. An annual grant of \$2,400 is also provided for supplies. Four cheques in equal amounts, on a quarterly basis (i.e., \$600 per cheque) will be paid to the insulin pump user. Insulin pumps can be purchased from any vendor who is registered with the Assistive Devices Program. Insulin pump related supplies may be purchased from any vendor in Ontario who sells these products.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Insulin pump therapy is complex and requires access to care that is provided by a specialized multi-disciplinary team of health professionals.

Permanent residents of Ontario, living with type 1 diabetes can apply for an insulin pump by contacting one of the Diabetes Education Teams registered with the ministry. Applicants must have a valid health card and meet the established eligibility criteria to qualify. Education teams are located throughout Ontario and consist of multidisciplinary health professionals who determine eligibility for the insulin pumps and assist with application forms.

Those not having success with multiple daily insulin injections and are willing and able to use an insulin pump may be eligible. Patients must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to blood glucose monitoring, safe and proper use of the insulin pump, participation in an insulin pump education program and regular attendance at a diabetes clinic.

### **THREE MAIN TYPES OF DIABETES**

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in Ontario and Canada. About 900,000 Ontarians currently live with diabetes (8.8 per cent of the province's population) and the number is expected to increase to 1.2 million in Ontario by 2010. In addition to the human costs of the illness, the disease has a significant impact on the provincial health care system with diabetes and its complications costing the province more than \$5 billion a year. More than 90 per cent of all people with diabetes have type 2 and fewer than 10 per cent have type 1.

- Type 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas is unable to produce insulin. Insulin is a hormone that helps the body control the level of glucose (sugar) in the blood. Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in childhood and adolescence. About 10 per cent of people with diabetes have type 1 diabetes.
- Type 2 diabetes occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body does not effectively use the insulin that is produced. It usually develops in adulthood, though children can develop type 2 diabetes as well. Type 2 diabetes accounts for most of the remaining 90 per cent of people with the illness.

- A third type, gestational diabetes, is usually a temporary condition that occurs during pregnancy.

## **THE DIABETES STRATEGY**

Ontario is investing \$741 million over the next four years in a comprehensive diabetes strategy that aims to prevent, manage and treat diabetes across the province. Beyond insulin pump therapy other components of the diabetes strategy include:

- increasing access to team-based care
- diabetes prevention
- diabetes registry
- chronic kidney disease services
- bariatric surgery centres of excellence.

**For public inquires call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)**

---

Media Contacts:

Steve Erwin, Minister's Office, 416-326-3986

Mark Nesbitt, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,  
416-314-6197

**[ontario.ca/health-news](http://ontario.ca/health-news)**

*Disponible en français*