

## Frequently Asked Questions - Patients

### What is the Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump Program?

The Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump Program is the result of a collaboration between JDRF and the Australian Government to provide government-funded subsidies for insulin pumps for children under 18.

The program is designed to allocate \$5.5 million over four years to help make insulin pumps more affordable and accessible for Australian families.

The subsidy level has now been raised to cover up to 80% of the total purchase price of an insulin pump.

### Who is eligible to apply for a subsidy?

Carers of children under 18 that have type 1 diabetes can apply to JDRF for subsidies of up to 80% of the total purchase price of an insulin pump. The family must be Medicare eligible and not have access to private health insurance.

Your health care team will need to confirm the following:

- The child has type 1 diabetes
- The child will benefit from a transition to insulin pump therapy
- The child/carer has demonstrated willingness to check blood glucose levels four or more times per day
- The child/carer has demonstrated competence at injecting insulin using pens/syringes
- The insulin pump initiation will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team
- The initiating team makes a commitment to the transition and a system to ensure follow-up and ongoing support

The subsidies are means tested and reflect a sliding of between 80% and 10% of total pump purchase price dependent on gross family income. The minimum subsidy paid will be \$500 and the maximum subsidy will currently be \$6,400 depending on insulin pump chosen.

### What is an insulin pump?

An insulin pump is a small computerised device that delivers a slow continuous level of rapid acting insulin throughout the day. It can be programmed to give more or less insulin when and if required. The insulin is delivered through a tiny tube (cannula) under the skin that is changed every three days.

### Why use an insulin pump?

Research shows insulin pumps help in the management of type 1 diabetes by minimising the dangerous fluctuations in blood glucose levels that can result in long-term health complications such as blindness, heart disease, kidney failure, limb amputation or coma.

In addition to important health benefits, insulin pumps can make a difference to the whole family – life doesn't have to be planned around insulin injections and children can more easily play sport, go on a school camp or stay over at a friend's house. Insulin pumps also alleviate the intrusive daily regime of diet management and insulin injections.

### What subsidy am I eligible for?

The subsidy you are eligible for will vary depending on your circumstances. JDRF can email you an estimate of the subsidy you would receive if you complete the online 'Request Estimate' form. Please

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note that JDRF will not store any income information you provide through the request form. See <http://www.jdrf.org.au/our-community> for access to forms and information.

## How do I apply for an insulin pump subsidy?

Online application is at <http://www.jdrf.org.au/our-community>

## What insulin pump should I buy? How much do they cost?

There are several different insulin pumps available in Australia. Insulin pumps vary in price from \$5000 to \$8000, and come with a wide range of features. Your health care team will be able to help you decide which is most appropriate. Below are some links to insulin pump suppliers.

- Animas Insulin Pump - <http://www.amsl.com.au/products/>
- Medtronic Veo Insulin Pump - <http://www.medtronic-diabetes.com.au/>
- Accu-Chek Spirit Insulin Pump - <http://www.accu-chek.com.au/au/products/insulinpumps/index.html>
- Dana Insulin Pump - <http://www.diabetesnsw.com.au/>

## Will I receive the subsidy payment directly?

JDRF will only pay the subsidy to the insulin pump company directly before the pump is sent to the clinic. No subsidies will be paid directly to applicants or clinics.

## Will previous recipients of the subsidy be eligible for the increase?

JDRF are unable to administer retrospective payments to patients who have already completed the subsidy application process and received their pump and payment.

## What happens to applications?

If you have already submitted an application for subsidy to JDRF but have yet completed the process then the new subsidy levels will apply to your application. Please contact JDRF to reactivate your application if it is more than 6 months old.

## How do I get insulin pump consumables (tubing, infusion sets, reservoirs, etc)?

Insulin pump consumables are available through the NDSS, like your other diabetes consumables.

During the application process your health care team will complete the NDSS application form for insulin pump consumables. You will be able to use your current NDSS to access the subsidised consumables once your NDSS pump consumables form is processed.

## How will I know if an insulin pump is right for my child?

Your health care team will be able to provide you with advice and information about insulin pump therapy.

## How long do I have to wait before my child gets an insulin pump?

The application process should take less than four weeks to complete.

## I have private health insurance – am I able to get an insulin pump subsidy?

No. Insulin pumps are covered by all private health insurance policies, although a waiting period of twelve months applies. Speak with your insurer and diabetes team for more information about how to receive funding through private health insurance.



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## **What if I change my mind? Can I opt out of the process once I start?**

You can opt out of the process at any time.

## **Where can I go for more information?**

JDRF has more information at <http://www.jdrf.org.au/our-community> Alternatively, call us on 1300 363 126.