

Pressure Modification Devices

What kinds of pressure modification devices are funded by the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)?

- custom-made orthoses for hypertrophic scars
- pressure garments for hypertrophic scars
- compression garments and sleeves for chronic lymphedema
- sequential extremity pumps and accessories for primary lymphedema

Who can apply?

Individuals with a long-term physical disability who need a garment, sleeve or device for at least six months of regular daily use and have a valid Health Card issued in their name.

ADP does not pay for equipment available under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board or Group 'A' veterans for their pensioned conditions.

What do I do first?

Get an Application for Funding Pressure Modification Devices form from an authorizer or vendor registered with the ADP.

The form can be downloaded and printed from the ADP website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/adp>.

Do I need a medical check-up?

Yes. The first time you apply for ADP funding, you must be assessed by a specialist physician.

For hypertrophic scar pressure garments or orthoses, the specialist physician will be a member of a burn team registered with the ADP.

For lymphedema compression garments or sleeves, the physician must be a specialist in the area of cardiovascular surgery, vascular surgery, orthopaedic surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, internal medicine, paediatrics, physiatry, plastic surgery or general surgery. A General Practitioner in Oncology (GPO), a Gynecologic Oncologist, a wound care specialist or a dermatologist with applicable experience may also provide this assessment.

For sequential extremity pumps for lymphedema management, the specialist physician will be a member of a lymphedema team registered with the ADP.

For first access for compression sleeves, if you have previously accessed the ADP for compression garments, please contact the ADP authorizer who originally completed your assessment.

You also need to be assessed by your specialist physician or family physician or nurse practitioner every 2 years and/or if you have a change of medical condition.

What happens next?

Your specialist physician or family physician or nurse practitioner will refer you to an authorizer registered with the ADP.

Authorizers for hypertrophic scar garments and orthoses are occupational therapists, physiotherapists and certified orthotists who are members of a burn team registered with the ADP.

Authorizers for lymphedema compression garments or sleeves are occupational therapists, physiotherapists, registered nurses, or registered massage therapists registered with the ADP.

Authorizers for sequential extremity pumps for lymphedema management are occupational therapists or physiotherapists who are members of a lymphedema team registered with the ADP.

The authorizer will identify the exact type of device you need and confirm your eligibility for ADP funding assistance. The authorizer will refer you to an ADP registered vendor, where a certified fitter who is registered with the ADP will measure you and order the device(s) that you require. In some situations, the authorizer will do the measuring and ordering of the device(s).

The certified fitter or authorizer will provide education about the use and care of the device(s).

Where can I get my pressure modification device?

Hypertrophic scar orthoses: from an orthotic vendor registered with the ADP.

Hypertrophic scar pressure garments and sequential extremity pumps for lymphedema management: from a vendor associated with a burn or lymphedema team registered with the ADP.

Lymphedema compression garments and sleeves: from a vendor registered with the ADP.

The vendor will have staff trained in the assessment and fitting of the specific device.

How much will the ADP contribute?

The ADP will pay 75 per cent of the approved cost of the device. The vendor will bill you the remaining 25 per cent of the cost.

If you are receiving social assistance benefits under Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD), you may be eligible to receive more money.

Will my health insurance company cover my share of the cost?

Many will. If you have private medical coverage, check with your insurer or agent.

What if I want to change vendors?

A new application form is required. The authorizer and fitter must complete an assessment.

Is there a warranty for my device?

The ADP registered Vendor must warrant the device against breakage and/or tearing. There is a specific warranty for each type of device. Speak to the authorizer and/or Vendor for details.

Can I replace my pressure modification device if my medical condition changes or my device is no longer meeting my needs?

If you experience a change in your medical condition you must see your specialist physician or family physician or nurse practitioner and your authorizer for an assessment of your needs.

For replacement of previously funded garments with identical garments for hypertrophic scar and lymphedema management, a new application form is not required during the 2 year designated funding period. Contact the authorizer and/or certified fitter who originally completed your assessment.

If the size or style of the garment changes, a new application is required. In these cases, the ADP registered authorizer and fitter must complete new assessments.

For replacement of previously funded compression sleeves, you must be reassessed by an ADP registered authorizer for lymphedema management.

If your device is worn out and cannot be repaired the ADP may contribute towards the cost of a replacement.

ADP will not pay for the replacement of equipment lost, stolen or damaged through misuse. You are encouraged to buy private insurance for coverage in these situations.

For More Information

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