

Where Can I Get the Equipment I Will Need After Surgery or Illness?

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After your surgery or illness, you may need equipment to help you get around. For example, you may need a walker or a raised toilet seat. Try to get any equipment you will need **before** you go in to the hospital.

If you need equipment, you can:

- Buy (new or used)
- Rent
- Borrow
 - › from friends or family.

or

- › from equipment loan programs in your community.

Note: Programs that loan equipment or provide funding usually have an application process. Approval for equipment or funding may depend on your age, income, type of injury or condition, or other factors.

Where can I buy equipment?

Insurance

With a referral from your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner), most health insurance companies will cover some or all of the cost of equipment. Check with your insurance company to see what your plan allows. In some cases, you may have to buy the item, submit a claim, and then get paid back.

Workers' Compensation Board (WCB)

If you have had a workplace accident, talk with WCB as soon as possible to open a claim. A WCB case worker will answer your questions about what equipment is covered, and how you can get it.

- › www.wcb.ns.ca/
- › Phone (toll-free) in Halifax: 1-800-870-3331
- › Phone (toll-free) in Sydney: 1-800-880-0003

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)

VAC covers the cost of equipment for:

- › Some veterans
- › Members of the Canadian Forces
- › Serving and discharged members of the RCMP
- › Family members
- › Some civilians

Call VAC at the number below. Have your K# ready.

- › Phone (toll-free): 1-866-522-2122

Easter Seals Nova Scotia Assistive Devices program

The Assistive Devices program lets clients borrow a wide variety of refurbished health equipment.

Items may include mobility (movement) aids, and bathroom and bedroom safety equipment. A limited supply of donated equipment is available for short and long-term loan to the public.

- › www.easterseals.ns.ca/assistive-devices
- › Phone: 902-453-6000 ext. 229

Indigenous Services Canada – Non-insured health benefits (NIHB) for First Nations and Inuit

The program provides eligible clients with coverage of benefits that are not covered under other health insurance. To be covered by the program, equipment and items must be:

- prescribed by a health professional (like a primary health care provider).
- provided by a supplier who is eligible to deliver the medical supplies or equipment.
- included on the NIHB medical supplies and equipment benefit list:
 - › www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585320116553/1585320137871
 - › Phone (toll-free): 1-800-565-3294
 - › Fax: 1-866-963-7700
 - › Email: sac.nihb-atlfnihb.isc@canada.ca

Where can I rent equipment?

Many home health care suppliers (like drugstores and medical suppliers) offer equipment rentals. Some offer rent to own options. Check in the YellowPages™ or online for a list of local suppliers.

Equipment loan programs

- Some local groups (like Lions Clubs, Kinsmen Clubs, and Legion branches) have equipment available to loan to local residents.
- Check for groups in your area that offer this service.

Canadian Red Cross

- The Canadian Red Cross has equipment loan programs in many areas of Nova Scotia. They loan equipment out for 3 months. Check with your local Red Cross.
- Find your local Red Cross equipment loan program:
 - › www.redcross.ca/in-your-community/nova-scotia/health-equipment-loans

Nova Scotia Department of Community Services - Income Assistance

- Income Assistance helps with basic expenses and special needs. If you receive income assistance and you need equipment, contact your caseworker about funding.
- To request special needs assistance:
 - › Phone (toll-free): 1-877-424-1177
- If you are currently in the hospital and you have new or different equipment needs, please talk with your health care team. They can help you get a prescription and quotes to give your caseworker.
 - › https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/income_assistance/index.html

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.