

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

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After your surgery or illness, you may need equipment to help you get around your community and your home. For example, you may need a walker or a raised toilet seat. If possible, get the equipment you will need before going into the hospital.

If you need equipment, you can:

- Buy – new or used
- Rent
- Borrow
 - › From friends or family
 - › From equipment loan programs in your community

Note: Programs that loan equipment or provide funding usually have an application process to decide if you can receive their help. Approval for funding and/or equipment may depend on your age, income, type of injury and/or condition, and other factors.

Buying equipment

- **Insurance:** With a referral from a doctor, most health insurance companies 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 and then get a refund.
- **Workers' Compensation Board (WCB):** If you have had a workplace accident, speak 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.
 - › Phone: Halifax 1-800-870-3331
 - › Phone: 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, certain civilians and family members. Be prepared to give your K#.
 - › Phone: 1-866-522-2122
- **Easter Seals:** Funds and/or provides equipment for residents of Nova Scotia who have no savings and live on a low income. A 'Notice of Assessment' is required.
 - › Phone: 902-453-6000 x226

- **Health Canada-First Nations and Inuit Health:**
 - › Phone: 1-800-565-3294
 - › Fax: 902-426-5698
- **Section B Auto Insurance:** If you were in a motor vehicle accident, funding may be available. For more details, ask for the *Section B Insurance Benefits* pamphlet.

Renting equipment

Many home health care suppliers, such as drugstores and medical suppliers, offer equipment rentals. Some offer 'rent to own' as an option. Check in the Yellow Pages for a list of local suppliers.

Equipment loan programs

- Some local groups, such as Lions Clubs, Legion branches or Kinsmen Clubs, have equipment available to loan to local residents. Check for groups in your area that offer this service.
- **The Red Cross** has an equipment loan program in many areas of Nova Scotia. Equipment is loaned out for a 3 month period. Check with your local Red Cross.

Income Assistance

- If you are on Income Assistance, the length of time that you need equipment may affect where you get it from. If you need it for a short time, borrowing equipment from a loan program may be the best option. If you will need equipment for a longer time, contact your Income Assistance worker to ask about funding.
- If you are currently in the hospital and have new or different equipment needs, you can contact the hospital social worker. They can help you get a prescription and quotes to fax to your Income Assistance worker.

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

Notes:

Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

Nova Scotia Health Authority

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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