

Getting the Equipment You Need After Surgery or Illness

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 all patient education resources here:
www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources

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

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Learn more:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources>

Getting the Equipment You Need After Surgery or Illness

- After your surgery or illness, you may need equipment to help you get around or do things. For example, you may need a walker or a raised toilet seat.
- Try to get any equipment you will need **before** you go to the hospital.
- **If you need equipment, you can:**
 - › Buy (new or used)
 - › Rent
 - › Borrow from friends or family
 - › Use equipment loan programs in your community

- There is usually an application process for programs that loan equipment or offer funding. Approval for equipment or funding may depend on:
 - › Your age
 - › Your income
 - › The type of injury or condition you have
 - › Other factors

Nova Scotia Department of Community Services - Income Assistance

- Income Assistance helps with basic expenses and special needs. If you have 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 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 price quotes to give your caseworker.
 - › https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/income_assistance/index.html

This pamphlet is just a guide. If you have questions, please talk to your health care provider. We are here to help you.

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) loan equipment to local residents.
- Check for groups in your area that offer this service.

Canadian Red Cross Health Equipment Loan (HELP)

- 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:
 - › www.redcross.ca/in-your-community/nova-scotia/health-equipment-loans

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 covers. 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 you can 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): 1-800-870-3331
 - › Phone (Halifax): 902-491-8999
 - › Phone (Sydney): 902-563-2444
 - › Email: info@wcb.ns.ca (for general information only)

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)

- VAC covers the cost of equipment for:
 - › Some veterans
 - › Members of the Canadian Armed Forces
 - › Serving and discharged RCMP members
 - › Family members
 - › Some civilians
- Have your K# ready when you call.
 - › Phone (toll-free): 1-866-522-2122

Easter Seals Nova Scotia Assistive Devices program

- The Assistive Devices program lets clients borrow refurbished health equipment. You must be assessed by an occupational therapist or a physiotherapist for **most** equipment.
- Items include mobility (movement) aids, and bathroom and bedroom safety equipment. A limited supply of donated equipment is available for short and long-term loans to the public.
- Please contact Easter Seals directly for these items: canes, reachers, air boots, and knee walkers.
 - › www.easterseals.ns.ca/assistive-devices
 - › Phone: 902-453-6000 extension 229
 - › Email: assistivedevices@easterseals.ns.ca

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

- This program covers benefits that are not covered under other health insurance for eligible clients. To be covered by the program, equipment and items must be:
 - › Prescribed by a health professional (like a primary health care provider)
 - › From 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: nihb-atlfnihb@sac-isc.gc.ca