

# 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. 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 equipment and/or funding may depend on your age, income, type of injury and/or condition, or other factors.

## **Where can I buy equipment?**

**Insurance:** With a referral from a primary health care provider, 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/](http://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, certain civilians, and family members. Be prepared to give your K#.

- › Phone (toll-free): 1-866-522-2122

## **Easter Seals Nova Scotia's 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](http://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 not available under other health insurance. Items must be included on the NIHB medical supplies and equipment benefit list and be:

- prescribed by a health professional (such as a primary health care provider).
- provided by a supplier who is eligible to deliver the medical supplies or equipment.
  - › [www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1579620079031/1579620259238](http://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1579620079031/1579620259238)
  - › Phone (toll-free): 1-800-565-3294
  - › Fax: 1-866-963-7700
  - › Email: [sac.nihb-atlfnihb.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.nihb-atlfnihb.isc@canada.ca)

**Section B Auto Insurance:** If you were in a motor vehicle accident, funding may be available. For more details, ask a member of your health care team for the *Section B Insurance Benefits* pamphlet (WX85-1474):

- › [www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/patientinformation/1474.pdf](http://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/patientinformation/1474.pdf)

## **Where can I rent equipment?**

Many home health care suppliers, such as 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, such as Lions Clubs, Legion branches, and Kinsmen Clubs, have equipment available to loan to local residents. Check for groups in your area that offer this service.
- The Canadian Red Cross has equipment loan programs in many areas of Nova Scotia. Equipment is loaned out for 3 months. Check with your local Red Cross.

## **Income Assistance**

- If you are on Income Assistance, how long you will need the equipment may affect where you get it from. If you will need it for a short time, borrowing equipment from a loan program may be the best choice. If you will need it 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, please talk with your health care team. They can help you get a prescription and quotes to give your Income Assistance worker.

**What are your questions?**

**Please ask. We are here to help you.**

