



Australian Government



External breast prostheses reimbursement program



What is the external breast prostheses reimbursement program?

This is a new Australian Government initiative to provide reimbursement of up to \$400 for new or replacement external breast prostheses for Australian women who have had a mastectomy as a result of breast cancer.

What am I able to claim?

New and replacement external breast prosthesis purchased from 1 July 2008 can be claimed.

When will the reimbursement be paid?

Reimbursements will commence from 1 December 2008.

Meanwhile, you may lodge your claim for reimbursement before this date and your claim will be processed by Medicare Australia in December.

How do I claim the reimbursement?

You will need to complete a claim form. The form is available from any Medicare office or you can download a copy from our website at medicareaustralia.gov.au

Once you have completed the claim form, attach your original receipt, which includes a description of the purchase, and:

- post to Medicare Australia GPO Box 9822 in your capital city, or
- hand in at any Medicare office.

Who can claim the reimbursement?

All women who are permanent residents of Australia, have a current Medicare entitlement and have had a mastectomy as a result of breast cancer are eligible to claim the reimbursement. The mastectomy may be recent or in the past.

Exceptions

If you currently receive financial assistance from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) you should claim your entitlement through DVA.

How much is the reimbursement?

A reimbursement of up to \$400 for each new or replacement external breast prosthesis can be paid, depending on the cost of the prosthesis. This limit applies to each prosthesis for each breast.



Examples

If you have had a double mastectomy and have purchased a double prosthesis at a cost of \$800, your reimbursement amount is \$800[#]. If the cost of your purchase is \$600, the reimbursement amount is paid up to the total cost of \$600[#].

If you have purchased a single prosthesis at a cost of \$500, the reimbursement amount is \$400[#].

How often can I claim a reimbursement?

If a claim under this program has previously been made, a subsequent reimbursement can be claimed no earlier than two years from the date of last purchase. This applies for each prosthesis for each breast.

Can I claim other items?

No, the program does not cover other purchases such as bras or other products, mastectomy swimwear or internal prostheses, or external prostheses purchased before 1 July 2008.

Can I claim the reimbursement if I have received a refund from my private health fund or financial assistance from a state or territory program?

Yes, but only if you received less than the full purchase cost and if the refund or financial assistance is less than the reimbursement limit. The amount of your reimbursement will be reduced by the amount already received.

Example

If the cost of your purchase is \$500 and you have received a refund of \$200 for a single prosthesis from your health fund, the \$200 is subtracted from the reimbursement limit of \$400. The reimbursement amount will be \$200.

How will the reimbursement be paid?

All reimbursements will be made by electronic funds transfer to your bank account you nominate on the claim form. We will send a statement to your nominated postal address listing the amount deposited into your account which can be kept for taxation purposes.

Where can I go to get more information?

For more information:
visit medicareaustralia.gov.au
call 132 011* or
visit any Medicare Office

* call charges may apply

Subject to other reimbursements or financial assistance not being paid previously