

What you need to know about Breast Prosthesis service payments

What is the Breast Prosthesis Service Payment?

It is a payment to people who have undergone a partial or full mastectomy, either unilateral or bilateral, and/or have undergone a lumpectomy, have congenital needs, or have undergone reconstructive surgery, as specified by a specialist or general practitioner (GP). The payments are to reduce the cost of purchasing Breast prostheses and other related products. The Ministry of Health will pay this service payment to either the claimant or the supplier of the product.

Who can claim this service payment?

You may claim for this service payment if you:

- > are a New Zealand citizen, or are ordinarily resident in New Zealand; and
- > your specialist or GP gives you a current medical certificate with your NHI number, and confirms your need for Breast Prosthesis services.

How much can I claim?

Your entitlement is \$613.33 (GST incl) per side for a four-year period. You may claim any amount up to the total amount of \$613.33 (or \$1226.66 GST incl for bilateral) at any time during the four-year entitlement period.

Note: The entitlement period begins on the date you make your first purchase from a supplier and ends four years from this date.

In addition to this:

You may apply to the Ministry of Health for an additional entitlement if your existing entitlement is insufficient because either:

- > you are under 18 and your GP or specialist considers that your growth is incomplete; or
- > you have lost a reconstructed breast due to infection or necrosis after reconstructive surgery.

Requests for additional entitlement should be sent to:

Disability Services Directorate, Ministry of Health, PO Box 5013, Wellington 6145.

What can I use the service payment for?

The service payment is available to cover the cost of the following items only:

- > breast prosthesis or breast forms (these may include standard breast forms, swim form, foam filler, shell prosthesis and lumpectomy shells)
- > special bras to hold the breast prosthesis or breast forms
- > surgical bras
- > normal bras (the services include the modification of a normal bra to hold a prosthesis or breast forms, or modifications to alternative undergarments where a person can not wear a bra due to their medical condition)
- > prosthetic nipples.

How do I claim?

Your GP or specialist will inform you about the service payment and issue you with a medical certificate for your claim. All you will then need to do is go to a Breast Prosthesis supplier and choose the right product for you.

Once you have chosen your product you may either request the supplier to make a claim to the Ministry of Health on your behalf, or make a claim yourself.

Claim by supplier

The supplier will fill in details of the product and its cost on the Breast Prosthesis Claim Form, and then ask you to fill in your personal details and sign the form. The supplier will then complete an additional form (stating that they are claiming on your behalf) and forward both forms to the Ministry of Health, with your medical certificate (where this is your first claim). You do not pay for the product yourself but keep a copy of the receipt the supplier gives you for your records.

Claim by you

You pay for the product yourself. To make a claim for reimbursement you must first have a Ministry of Health payee number. Ring the Ministry of Health on 0800 458448 for a Payee Number Application Form and a Breast Prosthesis Claim Form. You will need to complete the forms and return them to the Ministry of Health for reimbursement of your costs.

Remember

The Ministry of Health will not pay any claims unless they receive the following three items:

- > completed Breast Prosthesis Claim Form
- > proof of purchase (receipt) issued by the supplier
- > current Medical Certificate for initial claims.

What if the product that I choose costs more than I am entitled to?

Where an item is purchased that is more than your entitlement balance you are responsible for the additional cost.

For example, if for your first purchase you choose a product that costs \$695, the final cost to you will be \$81.67. You or the supplier can claim the other \$613.33 from the Ministry of Health.

What happens when my entitlement

period ends?

At the end of your entitlement period any unspent amount will be cancelled and another four-year entitlement of \$613.33 or \$1226.66 will be credited.

Use the following table to help you track when and how you have used your Breast Prosthesis Service Payment entitlement:

Date product purchased	Amount Claimed	Amount Remaining

For further information, please call the Ministry of Health contact centre on

0800 458 448

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8.00 am–5.00 pm

Wednesday
9.30 am–5.00 pm