

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.

