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Patient Care + Research + Clinical Trials

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Omnipod 5 vs Loop

Omnipod 5, is an automated insulin delivery (AID) system in use in the USA and Europe from 2022 & in Canada from April 2025. **Loop** is an AID system in use worldwide since 2016. Loop and Omnipod 5 systems are physically alike in that both use disposable **tubeless "patch" pods** manufactured by Insulet which are controlled with a handheld device via bluetooth. The Omnipod 5 system uses Omnipod 5 pods with the Omnipod 5 controller, Loop uses Omnipod Dash pods with an iPhone or Android phone. For a visual **click here**.

Monetary considerations:

Startup costs:

Omnipod 5:

First time users in British Columbia pay $6300 which goes towards the Pharmacare deductible. This is for the Omnipod 5 controller, previously known as a personal diabetes manager (PDM). Most Canadian provinces charge up to $6300 for the controller.

Existing Omnipod Dash users whose PDM is still under warranty pay $650 for the Omnipod 5 controller as an out-of-pocket expense. This expense does not go towards the deductible in BC, nor is it covered by any Canadian province or territory, or by extended insurers

Loop:

In British Columbia first time users pay $0. In most Canadian provinces and territories there is an upfront cost of up to $6300 for the Omnipod Dash PDM. The Omnipod Dash PDM is not required for Looping.

Users moving from another pump system that is still under warranty pay a $650 out-of-pocket expense all across Canada for the Omnipod Dash PDM.

Maintenance costs:

Omnipod 5 pods are $36 each and last to a maximum of 3 days.

Loop pods (Omnipod Dash) are $30 each and last to a maximum of 3 days.

In British Columbia both Omnipod 5 pods and Omnipod Dash pods are covered by BC Pharmacare, subject to the deductible. In other Canadian provinces, both pods are subject to local reimbursement rules.

Hardware considerations:

Omnipod 5 requires Omnipod 5 pods and

a controller, an Android device whose sole function is to program the Omnipod 5 pod. In the USA, Omnipod 5 runs on iPhones & supported Android phones & does not require a separate controller.

Loop requires Omnipod Dash pods plus either an iPhone 13+ or Android phone >2022 vintage. No PDM or controller is required.

CGM: both Omnipod 5 and Loop can only be used with Dexcom G6/G7. Neither supports Libre 2 or 3+.

Software considerations:

Regulatory approval:

Omnipod 5 is proprietary software owned by the Insulet Corporation that has received approval by Health Canada, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Agency, and other jurisdictions, and has been installed in hundreds of thousands of individuals.

Loop is an open source algorithm that is downloadable at no charge and buildable by suitably skilled individuals at a cost of US$99 annually.. I estimate it has been installed by >100,000 users worldwide, including 3200+ BCDiabetes who have done so with clinic staff.. Tidepool Loop, essentially identical to the version of Loop used by BCDiabetes, was approved by the US FDA in 2023 and is used in Twiist, an automated insulin delivery system licensed in the United States. With BCDiabetes clinic support Loop is safe and effective: click here to view the published outcomes for the first 1442 clients on whom Loop was installed at BCDiabetes as of 2025-May-20. Loop is not yet approved by Health Canada, however, an Investigational Testing Authorization (ITA) application for BCDiabetes Loop was submitted to Health Canada on 2026-04-11 for BCDiabetes Loop with a view to submission to Health Canada for non investigational use. All existing users of BCDiabetes Loop understand that Loop is not Health Canada approved and have signed a consent and waiver to be eligible for its use.

Training:

Omnipod 5:

This is a one-step process. Omnipod 5 users are trained by diabetes educators hired by the manufacturer Insulet. After training Omnipod 5 users are returned to their usual endocrinologist or diabetes doctor for follow-up.

Loop:

This is a two-step process. Loopers first need to be trained on Omnipod Dash: this is performed by diabetes educators hired by the manufacturer Insulet. The second step is for the Loop app to be installed and configured on the Looper's smartphone. If done by an individual on his/her own this is termed "DIY Looping". BCDiabetes offers fully supported training for Loop at no charge to residents of all Canadian provinces other than Quebec: for more information see **Looping at BCDiabetes**.

Regardless of the AID system, with a physician referral, BCDiabetes offers long-term follow-up at no charge for users of **all automated insulin delivery systems available in Canada**.

Which algorithm is better?:

The answer to that question is unknown. BCDiabetes is in the late stages of planning a **randomized clinical trial** comparing the most commonly used Looping algorithm ("Loop") and Omnipod 5 expected to start in July 2026. To be eligible participants must have not used an automated insulin delivery system before and be willing to accept the randomization of a coin toss ("heads Omnipod 5, "tails" Loop). The study will be completed in under 90 days allowing the user to return the system to which they were randomized for a full refund.

Advantage Loop:

If asked, BCDiabetes staffers and technologists will likely argue that Loop's algorithm is inherently more powerful than Omnipod 5's as Omnipod 5 does not have Loop's true microbolus functionality. While Omnipod 5 speaks to its "SmartAdjust Technology" providing small boluses on top of basal, we believe this does not have the oomph of Loop's current microbolus algorithm. BCDiabetes is aware that Insulet is actively working on an improved microbolus algorithm for Omnipod 6, roll-out date unknown. Additionally Omnipod 5 places significant limitations on the user's ability to adjust settings. Target glucose is limited to 6.1-8.3 mmol/L vs Loop's 4.8-10.1. Loop has unlimited overrides.

Advantage Omnipod 5:

Omnipod 5 has two advantages over Loop 1) the Omnipod 5 pod will run in full automated temp basal mode without the PDM, as the brain of the pod resides in the pod, not the controller. The controller is still required to bolus for meals however basal insulin will continue to run based on controller settings even if the controller is disconnected from the pod. 2) Omnipod 5 includes an "adaptive basal rate" which means

with every pod change the basal rate algorithm is fine-tuned, on the assumption of a 50:50 bolus:basal split with total daily dose. Adaptive Basal Rate may not be ideal for those who have tuned their settings well on Loop, but convenient for those who find difficulty with settings adjustments.

Summary

Both Omnipod 5 and Loop are excellent automated insulin delivery systems. The above two pages outline a number of considerations for potential users. For existing Loopers BCDiabetes recommends migration to Omnipod 5 only for those who have either 1) not achieved the control they seek or 2) find Loop's settings overly complex.

Short URL = https://bit.ly/O5vsLoop