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Omnipod 5 launches in Canada

BCDiabetes was delighted to learn of the launch of [Omnipod 5](#) on April 7. The addition of Omnipod 5 means Canadians now have access to 5 AID systems, joining [Loop](#) (not Health Canada-approved), [Tandem](#), [Medtronic](#) and [myLifeLoop](#). At the time of writing Omnipod 5 is only publicly reimbursed in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Dr. Elliott is actively lobbying for Omnipod 5 to be covered by BC Pharmacare and for all AID systems to be covered by National Pharmacare which announced provision of its Diabetes Devices fund in British Columbia for Nov 2026.

Omnipod 5 is the first tubeless AID system approved by Health Canada. Like [Loop](#), which runs on tubeless Omnipod Dash and Eros pods and on Dexcom G6 & G7, the tubelessness of both systems is their greatest advantage. BCDiabetes believes that Omnipod 5's special niche in Canada's AID market, compared with Loop and all tubed pumps, is its ease of use with young children and adults who seek simplicity in an AID system.

Many BCDiabetes Loopers have contacted us, anxious to know whether they should be moving to Omnipod 5. At present we recommend migration to Omnipod 5 only for those Loopers who have either 1) not achieved the control they seek or 2) find Loop's settings overly complex. For individuals living in Ontario or Nova Scotia who wish to move from Omnipod Dash or Eros to Omnipod 5 whose system is still in warranty, this can be made with payment of \$650.

Omnipod 5 vs Loop: To-date, BCDiabetes has been involved in the management of ten Omnipod 5 users: 3 from the US converting to Loop in past years and 7 from eastern Canada in the last 6 weeks. BCDiabetes has recommended Omnipod 5 to 5 BC locals (to be funded by their private health insurance).

Omnipod 5 requires the user to carry an additional piece of hardware, the controller, which is an Android device whose sole function is to program the Omnipod 5 pod. Loop runs from a user's own iPhone.

Omnipod 5's algorithm is inherently less powerful than Loop's, as Omnipod 5 does not have 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 its next iteration of Omnipod 5, expected sometime in the future, date unknown. 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.

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. 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.

Short URL = <https://bit.ly/BCDOmnipod5>