

2025-Jun-09

Insulin pumps - making automated insulin delivery possible

Insulin pumps are devices that pump or “infuse” rapid insulin into the skin of a person who requires insulin for the management of their diabetes. Prior to 2020-May-31 insulin pumps worked in manual mode - they had to be told what to do: they were not magic devices; pump users had to test their sugar frequently, count their carbs and program their pumps. In other words, pumps took a lot of hard work.

That all changed with the arrival of automated insulin delivery (AID) aka closed loop systems (“looping”) in late 2019. AID systems use sugar readings from a [CGM device](#) and based on an app in the pump or smartphone automatically instruct the insulin pump to give just the right amount of insulin so that sugar stays in the desirable range of 3.9-10.0 as much as possible. AID systems are what was previously termed the [artificial pancreas](#) that has been awaited for almost a century since the discovery of insulin by Canadians Banting and Best in 1922 for which they won a Nobel Prize.

AID provides for better control and higher quality of life, at the added expense of [an additional device attached to your body](#) and an extra \$10/day if you don't have provincial coverage or extended medical insurance. Hopefully by late 2026 [National Pharmacare will fully cover the cost of AID](#).

As of 2025-Jun-09 there are 5 automated insulin delivery (AID) systems available to Canadians - all are excellent choices

Three have tubing connecting the pump to a cannula inserted into the skin

[Tandem Control IQ](#), [Medtronic 780G](#) & [myLifeLoop](#)

Two have no tubing - they are termed “patch” pump

[Omnipod 5](#) and [Loop](#) (not Health Canada approved but available with signed waiver)

If you are thinking of starting an insulin pump capable of AID, completing [this short survey](#) may help determine the system that best serves your needs. To get an overall sense of the costs of AID before provincial subsidy/National Pharmacare or extended medical insurance reimbursement [click here](#).

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