

## **TRICARE Coverage of Breast Pumps, Supplies, and Breastfeeding Counseling Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q1. Who can get a manual or standard electric breast pump, supplies, and breastfeeding counseling services?**

All TRICARE-eligible female beneficiaries with a birth event. A birth event includes a pregnant beneficiary or a female beneficiary who legally adopts an infant and intends to personally breastfeed. You can get these items before or after delivery.

It doesn't matter what TRICARE plan you use (TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, USFHP, TRICARE Reserve Select, etc.) or your sponsor's status (active duty, retired, Guard/Reserve).

**Q2. Where can I get a breast pump?**

You can get a breast pump from any:

- Network or durable medical equipment provider (contact your TRICARE contractor)
- Commissary (run by the Defense Commissary Agency)
- Post Exchange (PX), Base Exchange (BX), or Station Exchange run by the:
  - The Army/Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES);
  - The Department of the Navy;
  - The United States Marine Corps; or
  - The United States Coast Guard
- Civilian stateside and overseas retail stores (such as Walmart, Target, Babies"R"Us, CVS)
- Online store (such as Amazon.com, Overstock.com; standard shipping and handling is covered)

**Q3. Is there a list of approved providers I can buy a breast pump from?**

No, there isn't a specific list. Contact your TRICARE contractor for information.

**Q4. How do I get a breast pump?**

1. Get a prescription.

- Your prescription must be from a TRICARE-authorized doctor, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife.
- Your prescription must show if you're getting a basic manual or standard electric pump. To get a hospital-grade pump, you need to work with your provider and TRICARE contractor to get a referral and authorization.
- Your prescription doesn't have to specify a brand.
- If you're going to get your breast pump from a network provider or durable medical equipment supplier, ask your provider to include a diagnosis code on your prescription.
- We suggest you make a copy of your prescription for your records.

2. Get a pump.

- If you don't want to pay up front, contact your TRICARE contractor to find a network provider or supplier. You need to show your prescription.
- If you're working with a military clinic or hospital on getting a breast pump, follow their processes and procedures.
- If you don't mind paying up front, go to a TRICARE-authorized provider, supplier, or vendor (includes retail and online stores). Make sure to save and copy your receipt. You won't need to show your prescription.

3. [File a claim.](#)

- If you use a network provider or supplier, you don't have to file a claim.
- If you bought the pump yourself, you have to fill out a [DD Form 2642](#), attach a copy of the prescription and receipt, and [mail it to your TRICARE claims processor](#). The TRICARE contractor will mail you a check.

**Q5. I bought a breast pump. How do I get reimbursed?**

1. Find your receipt.
  - Your receipt has to show you bought the pump on or after December 19, 2014.
  - You must have been eligible for TRICARE on the date you bought it.
  - If you can't find your receipt, you bought the pump before December 19, 2014, or you weren't eligible when you bought it, you can't get reimbursed.
2. Get a prescription.
  - You must get your prescription from a TRICARE-authorized doctor, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife.
  - The date on the prescription can be after the date on your receipt.
  - Your prescription must show the type of pump you bought (manual or standard electric pump).
  - Your prescription doesn't have to specify a brand.
  - We suggest you make a copy of your prescription for your records.
3. [File a claim](#).
  - You have to fill out a [DD Form 2642](#), attach a copy of your prescription and receipt, and [mail it to your TRICARE claims processor](#). The TRICARE contractor will mail you a check.

**Q6. I'm no longer TRICARE eligible, but bought a breast pump when I was eligible. Can I still file a claim?**

Yes, as long as your receipt shows you bought the pump on or after December 19, 2014.

**Q7. Is there a list of approved breast pumps?**

No, coverage isn't limited to a specific manufacturer, brand, or model number. [Contact your TRICARE contractor](#) for more information.

**Q8. What breast pump supplies are covered?**

TRICARE covers:

- Standard power adapters
- Tubing and tubing adaptors
- Locking rings
- Bottles
- Bottle caps
- Shield/splash protectors
- Storage bags
- Up to 2 breast pump kits per birth event

TRICARE doesn't cover (unless part of a breast pump kit):

- Breast pump batteries, battery-powered adapters, and battery packs
- Regular "baby bottles" (bottles not specific to pump operation), including associated nipples, caps, and lids
- Travel bags and other similar carrying accessories
- Breast pump cleaning supplies
- Baby weight scales
- Garments and other products that allow hands-free pump operation
- Ice packs, labels, labeling lids, and other similar products
- Nursing bras, bra pads, breast shells, and other similar products
- Over-the-counter creams, ointments, and other products that relieve breastfeeding related symptoms or conditions of the breasts or nipples

**Q9. Where can I get breast pump supplies?**

You can get breast pump supplies from any:

- Network or durable medical equipment provider (contact your TRICARE contractor)
- Commissary (run by the Defense Commissary Agency)
- Post Exchange (PX), Base Exchange (BX), or Station Exchange run by the:
  - The Army/Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES);
  - The Department of the Navy;

- The United States Marine Corps; or
- The United States Coast Guard
- Civilian stateside and overseas retail stores (such as Walmart, Target, Babies"R"Us, CVS)
- Online store (such as Amazon.com, Overstock.com; standard shipping and handling is covered)

**Q10. When can I get breast pump supplies?**

As a mother-to-be, you can get breast pump supplies before delivery or up to 3 years (36 months) after the birth event. The 3-year period starts on the child's birth date or the date of the legal adoption. A birth event includes a pregnant beneficiary or a female beneficiary who legally adopts an infant and intends to personally breastfeed.

**Q11. How do I get breast pump supplies?**

1. Get supplies.

- If you don't want to pay up front, contact your TRICARE contractor to find a network provider or durable medical equipment supplier.
- If you're working with a military clinic or hospital on getting supplies, follow their processes and procedures.
- If you don't mind paying up front, go to a TRICARE-authorized provider, supplier, or vendor (includes retail and online stores). Make sure to save and copy your receipt.

2. [File a claim.](#)

- If you use a network provider or supplier, you don't have to file a claim.
- If you bought the supplies yourself, fill out a [DD Form 2642](#), attach a copy of the receipt, and [mail it to your TRICARE claims processor](#). The TRICARE contractor will mail you a check.

**Q12. Does TRICARE cover breastfeeding (lactation) counseling?**

Yes. As of December 19, 2014, TRICARE covers up to 6 individual outpatient breastfeeding counseling sessions per birth event when:

- Your provider bills using one of the preventive counseling procedure codes;
- Breastfeeding counseling is the only service you get during the session; and
- You see a TRICARE-authorized provider

These sessions are in addition to the counseling you may have gotten during your inpatient stay, outpatient OB visit, or well-child care visit.

**Q13. How do I get reimbursed for breastfeeding counseling?**

If you saw a:

- **Network provider**, ask the provider to file a claim for you using one of the preventive counseling procedure codes.
- **Non-network provider**, fill out a [DD Form 2642](#), attach an itemized statement that includes one of the preventive counseling procedure codes, and [mail it to your TRICARE claims processor](#).

Note: The date of service must be on or after December 19, 2014.

**Q14. Does TRICARE cover breastfeeding counseling from an Independent Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) or Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC)?**

No, unless they're also a TRICARE-authorized doctor, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or registered nurse.

**Q15. Can I get reimbursed for a rented hospital-grade breast pump I returned?**

Yes, as long as it was medically necessary. To file a claim:

- Fill out a [DD Form 2642](#)
- Attach copies of your prescription, itemized billing statement, and documentation of medical necessity from your provider
- [Mail it to your TRICARE claims processor](#)

**Q16. My breast pump broke. Will TRICARE pay for a new one?**

Yes, under certain conditions. Contact your TRICARE contractor for help.

**Q17. Does TRICARE cover an electrical convertor to use my breast pump overseas?**

Yes.

**Q18. Is there a limit on how much TRICARE will pay for a breast pump?**

Currently there is no limit for standard electric breast pumps. If you pay out of pocket for your standard electric breast pump, TRICARE will pay you what you paid for the pump.

**Note:** A limit may apply to manual pumps. Contact your TRICARE contractor for information.

**Q19. TRICARE already paid for one breast pump for my baby. I'm pregnant again; can I get a new breast pump?**

Yes, TRICARE covers one breast pump per birth event. A birth event includes a pregnant beneficiary or a female beneficiary who legally adopts an infant and intends to personally breastfeed.

**Q20. Does TRICARE cover breast pump extended warranties?**

No, TRICARE doesn't cover extended warranties.