

About NSW Stoma Limited

We are a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the support of members who have undergone surgery resulting in a **Colostomy, Ileostomy, Urostomy / Ileal Conduit or other external pouch procedure.**

Funds to continue our member services are derived from fees for distribution of PBS Ostomy appliances, sale of non-PBS products, interest earned on funds invested in bank deposits, donations, bequests and sale of raffle tickets. We are reliant on the support of members, friends, volunteers and a small team of committed paid staff. The organisation is endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity and as a deductible gift recipient.

About the Stoma Appliance Scheme

The Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS), subsidised by the Australian Government, provides stoma related products (aids and appliances) free of charge to eligible members of Australian stoma associations.

The SAS provides assistance to Medicare eligible Australian residents who have a temporary or permanent artificial body opening (whether created surgically or otherwise), which facilitates the removal of urine and products of the gastrointestinal tract where the person does not have normal gastrointestinal tract or bladder functions. During 2014-15 over 40,000 people with stomas accessed the Scheme through the twenty-two approved volunteer ostomy associations within Australia.

To receive subsidised stoma products you must hold a SAS entitlement card issued by Medicare Australia through one of the Australian stoma associations. Your Stomal Therapy Nurse (STN) will help you join an ostomy association or you can choose to join the ostomy association most convenient to your circumstances. Members pay a small annual administration fee to their association to access the Scheme (Veteran Affairs Members are exempt) and postal delivery charges are generally also applicable.

These stoma associations independently purchase stoma related products from suppliers and distribute these to members as required. Associations then submit a claim to Medicare Australia for the products they have supplied to members. In addition to the cost of products purchased, Medicare Australia pays the ostomy associations a 2.75% handling fee on products supplied to members.

The choice of products which a member uses is guided by an STN who is specifically trained to advise on the use of stomal products following ostomy surgery. The STN will select and discuss products they feel are appropriate, taking into consideration each patient's lifestyle requirements.

The Stoma Product Assessment Panel (SPAP) reviews applications from suppliers to list stoma related products on the SAS and makes recommendations about the suitability of those products for listing on the SAS Schedule.

The SAS Schedule lists all products and corresponding prices that the Government subsidises for eligible people.

What stoma products am I entitled to?

The Stoma Appliance Scheme's Schedule lists products that have been approved by the Department of Health and Ageing to be issued to eligible members. The Schedule determines the maximum quantity that you can receive per month, the price of the product and whether there are any restrictions.

The Department of Health updates the Schedule four times a year with new products, deleted products and any variations to products already listed.

If you require a product not listed on the Schedule, you will be required to pay the full price; it will not be subsidised by the Government.

The Schedule can be obtained from the Department of Health's website, www.health.gov.au (type "Stoma Appliance Scheme" into the search engine).

What if I require more than the monthly maximum allowed?

There are provisions under the Scheme for you to receive additional supplies where the monthly allocation does not meet your ongoing needs.

To obtain more than the maximum monthly allowance from your association, Medicare Australia require a signed medical additional supply certificate from your Stomal Therapy Nurse or General Practitioner (GP) clearly stating the clinical justification for additional products and specifying the item(s) and quantities required. This certificate should be passed on to your stoma association who will forward it to Medicare Australia on your behalf. Please note that the certificate is current for **six months only**.

What if I need stoma products while I am on holiday?

If you are travelling within Australia you can produce your SAS entitlement card at any stoma association which can supply stoma products to you as a temporary resident in their area. Associations prefer you to make arrangements with them to make sure they have your particular products in stock. An advance supply of your monthly allowance is also available to cover holidays.

You can also order your products for two months in advance. If you are travelling overseas, you are entitled to up to six months' supply. If you require more than two months' supply, you will need to provide proof of travel to your association.

Note: Ostomy products are not available to Australian citizens who live outside Australia.

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