



Stoma Appliance Scheme

Important information for eligible members



The Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS)—subsidised by the Australian Government—provides stoma related products (aids and appliances) free of charge to members of stoma associations. There are approximately 37,000 members nationally who receive products under the SAS.

A stomal therapy nurse will advise you which products are suitable for your condition following a colostomy, ileostomy or urostomy surgery.

Who is eligible for the SAS?

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.

How can I get subsidised stoma products?

To receive subsidised stoma products you must hold a SAS entitlement card issued by Medicare Australia through one of the stoma associations in Australia. Your stomal therapy nurse will help you join a stoma association or you can contact one of the associations listed in this guide.

What stoma products am I entitled to?

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

If you require a product not listed on the Schedule, you will need to pay the full price—it will not be subsidised by the government.

The Schedule is available from your stoma association, or go to www.health.gov.au

What if I require more than the monthly maximum of stoma products allowed?

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

To get more than the maximum monthly allowance from your association, Medicare Australia requires 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 local stoma association who will forward it to Medicare Australia on your behalf.

Note: the additional supply certificate is valid for six months only.

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

Who develops guidelines for the SAS?

DoHA develops the guidelines and policies for the SAS and administers the Scheme's product pricing and listing process. Medicare Australia administers the SAS's application process and has responsibility for the processing and payment of claims lodged for payment by the stoma associations.

Stoma association contact details

For full details, visit the Australian Council of Stoma Associations website at www.australianstoma.com.au

Queensland

Gold Coast Ostomy Association Inc.
Call **07 5594 7633**

North Queensland Ostomy Association Inc.
Call/fax **07 4775 2303**

Queensland Colostomy Association Inc.
Call **07 3848 7178**

Queensland Stoma Association Inc.
Call **07 3359 7570**

Toowoomba and South-West Ostomy Association Inc.
Call **07 4636 9701**

Wide Bay Ostomates Association Inc.
Call **07 4152 4715**

New South Wales

Colostomy Association of NSW Inc.
Call **02 9565 4315**

Ostomy NSW
Call **02 9542 1300**

Victoria

Bendigo and District Ostomy Association Inc.
Call **03 5441 7520**

Colostomy Association of Victoria
Call **03 9650 1666**

Geelong Ostomy Association Inc.
Call **03 5222 3168**

Ileostomy Association (VIC) Inc.
Call **03 9650 9040**
Emergency only: **03 9311 5658**

Ostomy Association of Melbourne Inc.
Call **03 9543 1224**

Peninsula Ostomy Association Inc.
Call **03 9783 6473**
Emergency only: **0417 011 075**

Victorian Children's Ostomy Association
Call **03 9345 5325**

Warrnambool and District Ostomy Association
Call/fax **03 5563 1446**

Australian Capital Territory

ACT and Districts Stoma Association Inc.
Call/fax **02 6205 1055**

South Australia

Colostomy Association of SA Inc. (C.A.S.A.)
Call **08 8354 2618**

Ileostomy Association of SA Inc.
Call **08 8234 2678**

Western Australia

Western Australian Ostomy Association Inc.
Call **08 9272 1833**

Northern Territory

Cancer Council of the Northern Territory Inc.
Call **08 8927 4888**

Tasmania

Ostomy Tasmania Inc.
Call **03 6223 2974**