

Tips to help you claim NDIS funding for nursing services

- **Be prepared.** Before your planning meeting with the NDIS, spend some time thinking about the nursing supports you currently receive and are likely to need in the future. Make a note of the ways in which these supports improve your daily life, why you need a nurse to provide them and how they build your capacity. Provide as much evidence as possible. You can talk to us if you need any assistance preparing for your NDIS meeting.
- **Be flexible.** Just because a particular activity was provided by a nurse in the past, it doesn't mean they are the only person who can carry out that task. You might find it helpful to talk to the team here at Blue Care about your options and find out whether it's possible to train yourself, the people assisting you or a support worker to carry out certain nursing type activities.
- **Communicate clearly.** Make sure you are clear about your nursing requirements in your NDIS Planning meeting. If it helps, bring along someone with you who knows you well and can support you. You can also request a member of our team to come along as extra support.
- **Review your plan carefully.** Check that your needs have been included in your NDIS Plan under the correct category. Nursing can only be claimed under 'Improved Daily Living Skills' and it should also list nursing in the description. Please let us know once your Plan has arrived.
- **Ask for help.** If you're not sure how to demonstrate the link between your nursing supports and your disability, are unhappy with your NDIS Plan or have any other questions about nursing and the NDIS, you can always talk to us. As a registered NDIS service provider, you can trust Blue Care to guide and support you through the whole process.

To find out more about the NDIS and the services Blue Care is offering, please call our friendly team on 1300 77 80 81 or look at www.bluecare.org.au/disability



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Please note that the information in this leaflet is based on our knowledge of the NDIS procedures at the moment of publication. Blue Care is not responsible for any changes in regulations being made by the NDIS or other parties after publication of this leaflet.



Nursing Services and the NDIS



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new government initiative which gives people with disability greater choice and control over the supports they need. You may be currently receiving nursing services, but did you know that only a small number of nursing services qualify for NDIS funding? Here's some information on which nursing supports you may be able to receive through the NDIS, as well as tips to help you get the funding you need.

What are the different funding options for nursing services?

The two main funding options for nursing services are:

NDIS

Used to fund only those nursing services that are related to your disability considered 'capacity building' or 'assessment'

State health system

Used to fund all other nursing services, including ongoing nursing supports related to your disability

Why does the NDIS only fund certain nursing services?

The NDIS is designed to help you retain your independence and empower you to do things for yourself. That's why the NDIS funds 'capacity-building' nursing supports such as training and assessment. In your NDIS plan these services will appear in the Support Area 'Improved Daily Living'.

Which nursing services can I claim for?

The NDIS will fund 'capacity-building' nursing supports such as:

- Training by a nurse to enable you, someone else or a support worker to undertake supports like medication prompting and simple wound care.
- Assessment by a qualified nurse on what services and level of support you need, for example continence assessments.

All NDIS funded nursing services must: be related to your disability, contribute to your long term wellbeing, be delivered by a nurse and be limited in time.

The NDIS won't fund nursing services that are:

- Funded by (or should be funded by) your state health care system or another alternative program.
- Not directly related to your disability.
- Not required to be delivered by a nurse.
- Not considered 'capacity-building'.

How can I ensure that nursing services are included in my NDIS Plan?

It is extremely important that in the meeting with the NDIS you clearly mention all the nursing services you currently receive from Blue Care and any other providers, what nursing services you would like to receive in the future under the NDIS, how these contribute to your life independence and build your capacity.

To increase your chances of successfully receiving nursing services in your NDIS Plan, ask the team here at Blue Care to help you demonstrate how your nursing supports are linked to your disability and how they can be used to build your capacity.

What happens if my NDIS Plan doesn't include nursing services but I continue to receive these supports?

As soon as you receive your NDIS Plan, it is very important that you tell us and any other service providers straight away. Once you receive your plan you are financially responsible for any services that are not funded under your NDIS Plan.

If you feel your plan doesn't include the appropriate level of nursing support, you can request a review from the NDIS. But remember, until your NDIS Plan includes nursing services they will not be funded by the NDIS. If you wish to continue receiving nursing services that are not included in your NDIS Plan during the review period, you will need to fund these yourself or receive them via the State Health system.

Any services that you need which are not yet in your NDIS plan or any additional services that you would like to receive can be purchased directly from Blue Care with your own funds.

What if I don't know anyone who could be trained to support me with nursing type activities?

We completely understand that it might not be easy to find someone to support you with nursing activities. However, there may be other options, such as transport funding in your NDIS Plan to enable you to regularly go to a nurse to get the nursing services you need, or asking a provider like Blue Care to train a support worker.

In any case, we can work with you to see what your options are, so feel free to talk with us about this.