



Out-of-Province Travel and Accommodation Cost Assistance Information

Department of Health and Wellness

The Nova Scotia (NS) Out-of-Province Travel and Accommodation Cost Assistance policy supports Nova Scotia residents who must travel outside of the province for medically necessary, insured health services not available in Nova Scotia. You must receive prior written approval from Medical Services Insurance (MSI) to qualify.

Financial support available

If you are approved, you may receive assistance for the following:

- **Up to \$600 CAD one-way or \$1,200 CAD for round-trip** travel by plane, train or bus. Same rates apply for an approved escort.
- **Kilometrage (in CAD) per trip** for travel by personal vehicle. Amount will be based on the government regular Kilometrage rate and most direct route between the NS Civic address and medical facility. DHW will calculate this amount for you.
- **Up to \$230 CAD per night** (maximum **\$2,760 CAD per trip**) for short-term accommodations for the resident, or **up to \$3,000 CAD per month** when approved to relocate for more than 30 days.

Your departure and arrival dates for travel must align with the date(s) and schedules for your approved medical services.

Who can apply

Nova Scotia residents, referred for insured health services located more than 500 km one-way outside of Nova Scotia, who have written confirmation of pre-approval from MSI before scheduling appointments or making medical/travel and financial arrangements:

- to receive medically necessary services outside NS
- to temporarily relocate outside NS, if required
- for an escort to accompany you, if medically necessary

You must declare if you or your escort receive cost assistance from:

- Another provincial or federal program (e.g., Veterans Affairs, Canadian Armed Forces, Workers' Compensation)
- Private health insurance

You may still be eligible for partial assistance for costs not covered by other sources.

Escort Eligibility

Cost assistance for an escort may be available if:

- An appropriate health care provider confirms in writing that an escort is medically necessary
- The escort is approved by the MSI Medical Consultant
- The escort is at least 16 years old and provides medically necessary support to the Resident
- The patient is under 19 years old (in which case, one parent or caregiver will be automatically approved)

Your departure and arrival dates for travel must align with the date(s) and schedules for the medical services approved for the resident.

Escorts cannot claim Kilometrage or accommodation costs. If your resident must be hospitalized, please contact Benefit Eligibility for more information.

Medical and Travel Insurance is recommended

- Residents and escorts are strongly advised to purchase Travel and Medical Insurance when travelling outside Nova Scotia and Canada. Residents are responsible for all costs that are not covered by MSI.

Cost assistance is not provided for the following

- Travel and accommodation costs related to services that have not been pre-approved by MSI for cost assistance. Residents who depart Nova Scotia or make appointments or financial arrangements to receive treatment before receiving confirmation of pre-approval by MSI are not eligible for DHW cost assistance.
- Travel or private health insurance.
- Airline fees, including but not limited to, seat selection, changing/cancelling flights, baggage, and booking fees
- Other transportation fees, including but not limited to, taxi, car rental, subway fare, highway and bridge tolls, and parking
- Accommodations in Nova Scotia and other accommodation fees, including but not limited to, damage deposits, key deposits, cleaning fees, charges for extra guests, room service/meals, and booking fees
- Accommodations using non-commercial, private or non-registered rental property. Cost of electricity, heat, phone and other utilities
- Food, meals and any other incidental living costs

How to submit a claim

Once you have completed your travel:

- complete the Out-of-Province Travel and Accommodation Cost Assistance Claim Form. A separate claim must be submitted for each trip.
- submit as soon as possible. Delays may impact reimbursement.
- include original receipts, proofs of purchase, and documents (photocopies will not be accepted)
 - Round-trip travel receipts (plane, train, or bus) for both resident and escort, if applicable
 - Boarding passes for departure and return (for both resident and escort)
 - Accommodation receipts from a registered lodging provider
 - If using a personal vehicle: provide travel dates. Kilometrage will be calculated by DHW

DHW will send you a cheque to your mailing address.

Declaration of other sources of cost assistance

Residents and escorts must declare any cost assistance they are eligible to receive for medical travel and/or accommodations from a federal or provincial government department or agency, Nova Scotia Health or the IWK Health Centre. The DHW may provide cost assistance when the amounts received by residents and travel companions, if applicable, do not exceed the Out-of-Province Travel and Accommodation Cost Assistance Policy.

Private Insurance

The DHW is the payer of last resort. The insurance company must pay first, and the resident can claim for any additional assistance that does not exceed the Out-of-Province Travel and Accommodation Cost Assistance Policy.

Contact

Benefit Eligibility, Department of Health and Wellness

Phone: (902) 424-7538

Toll-Free (within Canada): 1-877-449-5476

Benefit.Eligibility@novascotia.ca

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (except holidays)