

Patient transport and accommodation

Information for people affected by cancer

Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) is a transport and accommodation subsidy scheme that helps people cover some of the costs of visits to specialist medical treatment not available in their local area. IPTAAS is provided by NSW Health.

You are eligible for IPTAAS if you are:

- an Australian citizen or a permanent a resident of NSW or Lord Howe Island and hold a Medicare card
- referred by a recognised, accredited medical practitioner for specialist treatment
- claiming all available benefits through private health insurance
- needing to travel more than 100km (one way) from home to treatment or needing to travel more than 200km in total to treatment in one week
- a carer who has been certified as being medically necessary by the medical practitioner or specialist.

You are not eligible for IPTAAS if you:

- live within 100km of appropriate treatment and are referred to that centre and do not travel more than 200km in one week
- have had your costs covered by another agency (e.g. DVA, employer schemes, workers compensation, other insurance claim)
- travel by ambulance, air ambulance, other emergency transport or inter-facility transfer – you can still make a claim for other costs incurred
- are on holidays or visiting friends or family in NSW or interstate
- use community transport to get to treatment
- are participating in a clinical trial, health screening programs, general dentistry.

IPTAAS is not means tested

Do I have to pay anything?

IPTAAS will not fully cover your costs. Patients and escorts without a pension/health care card will only be charged a \$30 co-payment fee. Pension and health care card holders don't have to pay this charge. Co-payments will be capped to 4 co-payments per financial year; the maximum cost for co-payments is \$120 per financial year. If you wish to apply for co-payment waiver for any other reason, complete the co-payment waiver form.

Up-front financial assistance

If you have a pension or health care card, you can apply for assistance with paying the up-front costs associated with your travel. To apply, complete the advanced payment form and submit this with your doctor referral form.

What does IPTAAS cover?

Types of travel	Reimbursement
public transport (trains and buses)	cost of an economy ticket (less GST & booking fee)
private motor vehicle use	\$0.22/km
taxi	one visit/consultation, maximum \$20 2–7 day visit, maximum \$40 8–14 day visit, maximum \$80 15+ day visit, maximum \$160
air travel (in special circumstances)	only considered with prior approval form health transport unit by medical practitioner/treating specialist
community transport	none

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Types of accommodation	Reimbursement
private accommodation [relatives or friends of the patient] (per night regardless of the number of nights you stay)	single, \$20 with escort carer, \$40
not-for-profit accommodation [hospital allied; registered as charities on the Australian Business Register] (per night/per room; for stays longer than three consecutive nights)	1-7 nights, single \$43 or \$60 with escort carer 8+ nights, single \$65 or \$85 with escort carer
for profit accommodation [commercial business e.g. hotels, motels, apartments, hostels and caravan parks] (per night)	1-7 nights, single \$43 or \$60 with escort carer 8-14 nights, single \$80 or \$105 with escort carer 15+ nights, single \$105 or \$120 with escort carer

Interstate treatment

If you are a NSW resident and you need to travel interstate to access specialist medical treatment, you are still eligible for IPTAAS assistance if you meet the general eligibility criteria.

If your medical condition means you have to fly to treatment, then your medical practitioner needs to mark this on your form in Section B, Question 4 and contact the local IPTAAS office.

Waiting lists

If your closest specialist has a waiting list, you may be able to claim an IPTAAS subsidy to see specialists further away from home. A health professional will need to vouch that there is a significant medical advantage in doing so.

IPTAAS Application Form

IPTAAS forms are available from the Enable website at www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/home/iptaas/iptaas_forms_and_factsheets. These can be completed on-line sent by email or printed and sent by post. The application form may require sign off from the patient, carer, accommodation provider, specialist and referring doctor.

Completing a claim form

The application form is divided into three sections. Remember to take your IPTAAS form with you whenever you have an appointment and ask your health professional to fill it in.

Travel Diary Supplement

The Travel Diary is used to log details of the costs incurred for a block of treatment and can be found on the enable website.

Where to get help and information

- Enable NSW
www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/home/iptaas
1800-IPTAAS
 (1800 478 227) or email iptaas@health.nsw.gov.au
- Contact the social workers at your local or destination treatment centre

Note to reader

This fact sheet provides general information relevant to NSW only and is not a substitute for legal advice. You should talk to a lawyer about your specific situation.

Cancer Council NSW

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For information and support on cancer-related issues, call Cancer Council **13 11 20**. This is a confidential service.