How do I apply for assistance?

Your referring medical specialist will complete the IPTS electronic application form on your behalf and forward it to the IPTS Project Officer at the Department of Health WA.

It is important to note that the lodgement of an application form does not in itself represent approval.

What are my responsibilities in applying for IPTS?

It is your responsibility to:

- Provide your specialist with current contact details and be available for contact during the application process
- Provide your referring specialist with required documents including:
  - Proof of residence
  - Any concession cards
  - Private health insurance correspondence
  - Medical information
  - Any other relevant supporting documentation
- Attend any medical appointment as arranged
- Give 24 hours notice if unable to travel
- Provide up-to-date contact details and bank account details if subsidy payment is expected.

Where can I find out more about the IPTS?

Any enquiries regarding IPTS eligibility requirements or benefits, can be obtained from:

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health
PO Box 8172
Perth Business Centre, WA 6849
Email: ipts@health.wa.gov.au

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

Produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer
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OCM-013788 JUL'26

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Department of Health

HealthyWA
Health information for Western Australians

Interstate Patient Travel Scheme (IPTS)

Travel and accommodation assistance for WA residents accessing specialist medical services

What is the IPTS?

The IPTS provides financial assistance with travel and/or accommodation costs for Western Australian residents to access a range of specialist medical services, where these services are not available locally.

This is an assistance scheme only and is not a full cost recovery scheme.

healthywa.wa.gov.au

Am I eligible?

You will be eligible for financial assistance under the IPTS if you:

- Are a permanent Western Australian resident
- Have a Medicare Card or are covered under the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement
- Are receiving treatment at an eligible WA public health site
- Are unable to use telehealth to access the required specialist medical service
- Are not entitled to financial assistance through another scheme e.g. workers compensation, travel insurance, Department of Veterans' Affairs, or other insurance cover.

Can I have someone travel with me?

IPTS also assists with the travel and/or accommodation costs of an escort accompanying you if you are under the age of 18 years.

If you are 18 years or over, an escort may be eligible for financial assistance if the escort is necessary to actively assist you during your travel or treatment.

What financial assistance is available?

Financial assistance may be provided towards your travel and accommodation costs only. Travel subsidies will be provided for the most clinically appropriate and cost-effective mode of transport. You will need to make a contribution towards the cost of travel. Medical transport such as ambulance and air ambulance will not be subsidised.

You will need to book your own travel (one return airfare 'best fare of the day' from Perth to the interstate destination) and/or accommodation (standard room) and claim the subsidy on your return home from the specialist treatment (subsidy rates are detailed below).

You may also be eligible for subsidies for an approved escort (i.e. family member or friend) to travel with you.

The IPTS subsidies paid directly to patients and escorts are GST exclusive.

Note:

You may be requested to repay the costs associated with travel if you fail to:

- Use the scheduled flight/travel
- Attend medical appointments without adequate justification
- Return the completed subsidies form within 6 weeks upon return.

Travel subsidies

Commercial Air	Fully paid at lowest available fare excluding GST
Private vehicle	$0.30 per kilometre
Transport to and from airport only for duration of journey	Max $200

Accommodation subsidies

Commercial	Up to $100 patient and escort
Living allowance	Up to $53.29

It is important to note that:

- IPTS only provides a subsidy and does not cover all costs such as meals, phone calls, taxi fare to the airport etc
- You are responsible for paying any costs that the subsidy amount does not cover
- If you choose a more expensive mode of transport than the subsidy as outlined above, you must pay the additional costs
- Accommodation and escort subsidies will only be provided for the minimum period required for your treatment to be effective.

What if I can't afford to pay for the travel and/or accommodation?

In this situation, please contact the IPTS Project Officer to discuss an alternative arrangement. The IPTS Project Officer may arrange for an advance purchase where financial hardship can be demonstrated.