

Transportation (Long Distance)

Do you pay long distance transportation costs for doctor's appointments or for hospital visits and can not afford it?

The Ministry may pay for some of these medical related expenses such as long distance transportation, meals, shelter, and an attendant. Welfare will only pay for the least expensive type of suitable transportation, and will not pay for routine doctor visits or follow-up.

Step 1

- Make a doctor's appointment.

Step 2

- Go to your doctor's appointment.
- Ask your doctor to write a letter that explains that you need to travel within BC for specialized medical services.
The letter must say:
 - that the medical services are exceptional
 - the type of transportation that is suitable for health reasons
 - why this type of transportation is necessary

Step 3

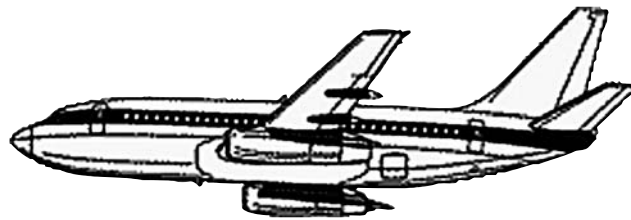
- Go to the Welfare office to meet with your Worker.
- Tell your Worker that you need a transportation supplement.
- Give your Worker the letter from your doctor.
- Explain to your Worker that you have no other resources to pay for travel to receive medical services.

Step 4

- If your Worker says "yes", you will be asked to budget all costs for travel (e.g., transportation, hotel, meals, etc.).
- It usually takes about three or four days to issue payment.
- Cost for hotels, meals, etc. will likely be paid directly to you. Transportation is usually paid directly to the airline, bus company, or other mode of transportation.

Step 5

- If your Worker says "no", call a BCPWA Advocate at 604.893.2223.



Tip

All other resources must be used before Welfare will consider paying for medical transportation. This includes friends, family, agencies, and other funding programs.

Tip

If you use your own car to travel for medical services, you may be eligible for a special transportation supplement. Ask a BCPWA Advocate how to apply.

Tip

If you are traveling to Vancouver for medical tests and have to stay overnight, Welfare may provide funding to cover your food and shelter. Ask your Welfare Worker if this benefit applies to you.

For more information,
please contact a
BCPWA Advocate
at 604.893.2223