Under the BC Employment and Assistance Program, a medical transportation supplement can be provided for persons facing extraordinary travel costs associated with essential medical treatment. This supplement is available when no other financial resources are available to cover the cost.

Essential medical treatments are non-emergency, insured medical services covered by Medical Services Plan (MSP) or the Hospital Insurance Act.

The purpose of this checklist is to provide you with information on the procedures which must be followed to help determine your eligibility for a medical transportation supplement.

Local Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
If the essential medical treatment is provided locally and you require a medical transportation supplement, you must:

- Explore all options and resources (i.e. family, voluntary agencies). See list of potential resources on page 2.
- Submit a written verification from your physician that includes the following information:
  - Confirmation that the medical treatment is covered by MSP or the Hospital Insurance Act.
  - Number of appointments per week necessary for the treatment.
  - Expected duration of the treatment.
  - Specify whether an escort is medically required or not required. (only eligible if accompanying a patient who is 18 years of age and under or who is incapable of travelling independently due to medical reason)
  - Specific reason why you are unable to use public transportation, if you require a taxi on an ongoing basis.

Non-Local Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
If the essential medical treatment is provided outside your home community and you require a medical transportation supplement, you must:

- Explore all options and resources (i.e. family, voluntary agencies). See list of potential resources on page 2.
- Request a written verification with the same information listed above or the Travel Assistance Program (TAP) form from your physician. TAP is a program developed by the Ministry of Health Services with participating transportation partners to provide travel assistance to eligible BC residents who are required to travel outside their home community to obtain non-emergency, physician-referred
specialist medical care. For more information about the program, go to http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/mtapp/tap_patient.html.

- If a TAP form is required, submit a copy of the TAP form with confirmation number.
- Please consult with your local office to determine which document (a written verification or a TAP form) is required.
- Fill out and submit a Non-Local Medical Transportation Request form (HSD3320).
- If you must return to the specialist, hospital or specialty service as part of the same course of treatment, the destination specialist’s office or specialty service can complete and sign or stamp another TAP form. A new TAP form should be issued for each subsequent visit at the time the next appointment is made and a copy should be submitted to your Employment and Assistance Office.

Your eligibility for a medical transportation supplement will be assessed once all requested information is provided and all other resources have been considered. The most affordable option will be considered.

Failure to provide the necessary information required to determine your eligibility may result in delays processing your request.

This ministry may verify the information provided and perform post audit verification to confirm that the funding was used for its intended purpose.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the Ministry of Housing and Social Development at 1-866-866-0800.

**Alternative resources (but not limited to) include:**

**Health Connections Program** – subsidized transportation options for rural areas
http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/mtapp/connections.html

**Medical Travel Accommodation** – discounted medical rates for hotel accommodation
http://www.pss.gov.bc.ca/csa/categories/accommodation/medical/search/

**Hope Air** – charitable organization for free air transportation
http://www.hopeair.org/

**Easter Seal House**
http://www.lionsbc.ca/programs/eshouse_vancouver.shtml

**New Chelsea Society** – accommodation for kidney patients
http://www.newchelsea.ca/ChelseaTower.html

**Aboriginal Patient’s Lodge** – accommodation for Aboriginal patients
http://www.lnhs.ca/patients_lodge/apl.htm
**Heart House** – for cardiovascular corrective patients
[http://www.fohs.bc.ca/HeartHouse/tabid/53/Default.aspx](http://www.fohs.bc.ca/HeartHouse/tabid/53/Default.aspx)

**BC Cancer Lodge** – accommodation for cancer patients
[http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/copingwithcancer/practical/housing.htm](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/copingwithcancer/practical/housing.htm)

**Heather House**
[http://www2.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/dbs/redbook/orgpgs/7/703.html](http://www2.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/dbs/redbook/orgpgs/7/703.html)