Travel and lodging

Travel and lodging coverage associated with specified organ transplants.

Original Medicare

Original Medicare does not cover costs related to travel and lodging.

Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO

Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO plans provide at least the same level of benefit coverage as Original Medicare (Part A/B) and provide enhanced benefits beyond the scope of Original Medicare within a single health care plan. This flexibility allows BCBSM to offer enriched plans by using Original Medicare as the base program and adding desired benefit options.

Travel and lodging is provided as an enhanced coverage option for Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO plans. This policy applies to standard groups that purchase the enhanced travel and lodging coverage. This policy does not apply to Medicare Plus Blue PPO Individual members.

Custom Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO plans may provide different travel and lodging benefits to its members. Refer to custom group benefits for additional information in the Summary of Benefits or Evidence of Coverage.

When purchased, travel and lodging benefits are available for all transplants and clinical trials covered by the group’s benefit plan.

The travel and lodging benefit period begins five days prior to the initial transplant and extends through the patient’s transplant episode of care. The transplant surgery must be performed at a Medicare–approved transplant facility.

Travel and lodging benefits are also payable during covered clinical trials. In these instances, travel and lodging benefits begin with the first service date of the clinical trial and end 180 days after that date.

Travel

The cost of transportation is for going to and from the designated transplant or clinical trial facility for the patient and another person eligible to accompany the patient and two persons if the patient is a child under age 18 or if the transplant involves a living donor.

Lodging

The cost of lodging is for the patient (exclusive of inpatient hospital admission) and person(s) eligible to accompany the patient during the patient’s episode of care.
Excluded services
Items not directly related to travel and lodging expenses are not payable. They include, but are not limited to:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Car maintenance
- Cards, stationery, stamps
- Clothing
- Dry cleaning
- Entertainment (cable televisions, books, magazines, movie rentals)
- Flowers
- Household products
- Household utilities, including cell phone charges, maid, baby–sitter or day care services
- Kennel fees
- Laundry services
- Meals for the patient and person(s) eligible to accompany the patient.
- Meals for the patient during an inpatient hospital stay are covered as part of the inpatient hospital care.
- Security deposits
- Toiletries
- Toys
- Vehicle rentals

Conditions for payment
The table below specifies payment conditions for travel and lodging:

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Reimbursement
Benefits are payable up to a combined maximum of $150 per day for the covered duration. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) defined mileage rates in effect at the time of service will be used to calculate mileage reimbursement.

- The maximum amount payable for services related to an initial solid organ transplant is $10,000.00.
- The maximum amount payable for services related to an approved clinical trial is $5,000.00.

Member cost–sharing
- Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO member cost–sharing responsibilities do not apply to travel and lodging services. If a member elects to receive a non–covered service, he or she is responsible for the entire charge associated with the non–covered service.

For detailed information about a Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO member’s benefits and cost–share, providers may verify member benefits via web–DENIS or call CAREN at 1–866–309–1719.
Billing instructions for members
Members may submit bills, itemized statements, detailed mileage information and paid receipts to:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Imaging and Support Services
P.O. Box 32593
Detroit, MI 48232-0593