

BC Cystic Fibrosis Subsidy for Medications and Travel Program: Policy & Forms

2026



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BC CYSTIC FIBROSIS SUBSIDY PROGRAM POLICY

CF Care BC oversees the administration of a grant from the BC Ministry of Health to assist individuals followed by the cystic fibrosis (CF) clinics in BC with medication, travel and accommodation costs related to cystic fibrosis care. To be eligible for support individuals with cystic fibrosis must have their visits confirmed by a CF clinic in BC. In addition, individuals must attend a CF clinic at least once every year.

The application and reimbursement process is on-line only using a platform compliant with current privacy standards. Only expenses incurred in the current calendar year will be eligible for reimbursement. Claims are reimbursed on a first come, first serve basis while funds are available. The platform closes when funds are exhausted and re-opens in the next calendar year. Applicants may experience significant wait times between applying and reimbursement.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS MEDICATIONS & EQUIPMENT

Please complete and submit the on-line application form and attach scans of the original prescription receipts and any supporting documents.

Individuals and their families are strongly encouraged to maximize all other opportunities for coverage and funding before applying for reimbursement. Reimbursement for cystic fibrosis medications and equipment will be made to a maximum of \$1,500 per individual with cystic fibrosis per calendar year.

Criteria for reimbursement of medication:

- This grant support CF medications and care so only medications on the pre-approved list will be eligible. The most update to date list can be found on the [CFCBC website](#). This includes PharmaCare “Plan D” supplements.
- Claims for non-prescription medications on the list must be accompanied by a digital copy of the original physician prescription plus the cash-register receipt or a pharmacy prescription receipt.
- Extended Health Benefit (EHB) claims must have a copy of the EHB statement and a copy of the receipts where applicable.
- Medical Devices or Equipment: Air compressors, nebulizers, physiotherapy equipment, home spirometers and some diabetic supplies will also be reimbursed as part of the \$1500 annual maximum.
- True digital copies of all itemized receipts must accompany all requests for reimbursement.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS

The BC CF Subsidy assists with travel and accommodation costs related to attending a CF clinic (including specialized outpatient testing and procedures), and/or hospitalization for CF-related illness.

Travel and accommodation arrangements are to be made by the individual with CF or their family. The Program provides coverage for a CF patient (child or adult) and one caregiver for a child with CF or for an adult with CF, where medically necessary. The “Clinic Visit Confirmation” form, signed by the CF clinic, must accompany each individual claim for travel and/or accommodation.

In the case of an extended hospital stay, special arrangements for caregiver accommodation may be possible by first contacting your clinic social worker.

Accommodation

Patients of BC Children’s Hospital (aged 18 years and under): The Ministry of Health Services and Provincial Health Services Authority has introduced an accommodation assistance program called the BC Family Residence Program. It is administered by Variety – The Children’s Charity and provides subsidized accommodation for families for up to 30 days per stay. Arrangements are made through Variety for accommodation in special housing facilities such as Ronald McDonald House, Easter Seal House or alternate locations that meet their criteria. Call 1-866-496-6946 (8am to 4pm Monday to Friday) or visit: [BC Family Residence Program - Variety BC](#)

- For all other patients/families (including adults with CF) unable to make the round trip to their CF clinic in one day, the cost of one night of accommodation (except in special circumstances) at Easter Seal House will be covered or, in the case of a hotel, costs to a maximum of \$150. Please try Easter Seal House first for availability.
- Accommodation costs are also covered for one parent or one caregiver for the duration of an individual with CF hospitalization, if necessary. As Program funds are limited, any additional family members will be responsible for their own accommodation costs.
- Individuals requesting accommodations support must live more than 150 km away from their clinic site or a letter of support from the clinic social worker will be required.

Current rates (December 2025) for Easter Seal House are as follows:

	Easter Seal House
Child Patient	Free
Adult Caregiver	\$100/night + \$10 Parking
Adult Patient	\$100/night + \$10 Parking

Please pay your bill and then submit the receipt with the completed Program Reimbursement Application form to the Program Administrator for reimbursement directly to you.

Travel

Reimbursement will be made following a clinic visit or hospitalization for a portion of air/bus fare or for mileage exceeding 150 km per round trip. As Program funds are limited, it is essential for all users to examine the most economical and optimum method of travel for them. When claiming travel, reimbursement will be for the lesser of mileage or air fare. For families with 2 children traveling to the same clinic, mileage will only be supported for 1 sibling as it is assumed the family will be traveling in one vehicle.

Applicants must submit receipts for bus and airline tickets with the program form.

Air

Where possible, families are encouraged to use the **Travel Assistance Program (TAP)** or **Hope Air**. Please ask your clinic staff for information on either of these programs. Hope Air flights are provided at no charge; however, there are some eligibility requirements.

The Program will reimburse 50-80% of commercial airfare depending on the region you live in (for example those who must travel greater distances receive greater coverage) or mileage, whichever is less.

- 50% coverage for Interior Health
- 80% coverage Northern Health

The Program will provide reimbursement for round trip bus fares.

Personal Car

Mileage will be paid at 30 cents per kilometer based on a minimum 150 km round trip from your home to the facility you are attending.

- The Program does not cover parking, taxi fare, rideshares, or tolls.
- Regional bus or transit costs.
- Ferry costs are covered by the TAP program.
- Meals related to travel.
- Any travel paid for in frequent flyer points.

PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION

Application submission is **on-line only**. Currently we are only able to mail cheques for reimbursement.

<http://www.phsa.ca/health-info/cystic-fibrosis/supporting-patients-with-cystic-fibrosis/grant-for-medicationstravel>

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

To contact the program administrator, please e-mail cfgrant@phsa.ca

OTHER RESOURCES

In addition to the resources below, view [Cystic Fibrosis Canada's CF Resource Guide](#) for information on financial and social support services.

For further information on any of the resources listed below, contact your CF clinic team or use CF Canada's information request and referral service by contacting advocacy@cysticfibrosis.ca.

Financial Assistance for Medical Travel:

[Travel Assistance Program](#) (TAP) helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible BC residents who must travel within the province for medical services not available in their own community. TAP is a partnership between the Ministry of Health Services and private transportation carriers, who discount or waive their regular fees. TAP does not provide direct financial assistance to patients for travel costs, and does not include accommodation, fuel or local transportation expenses. If you require a TAP form please ask your CF team as one can be either mailed to you or provided to you in person. It is especially beneficial for people who need to travel by ferry.

[Health Connections Bus](#) offers subsidized transportation options to help defray costs for rural residents who must travel to receive medical care outside their home communities. This includes the Wheels for Wellness program on Vancouver Island.

[Hope Air](#) assists with the cost of air transportation for individuals seeking medical treatment. Qualifying individuals must demonstrate financial need and have a scheduled appointment for recognized medical treatment. Hope Air also has a partnership with Airbnb to help assist with accommodations.

Financial Assistance for Medical Accommodations:

Medical Hotel Rates may be available. CF Clinic social workers generally have lists of hotels near the hospitals that offer medical rates to patients. Often these hotels only require you to explain where you are a patient, and that you are in town for medical reasons to get the rate. Others may require a call from your CF clinic.

[Easter Seals House](#) is available to both adults and children as a low cost option for accommodation during medical trips to Vancouver. This accommodation is closer to BC Children's Hospital than to St. Paul's Hospital, but adults with CF still may use it due to the low cost. They then travel by car or transit to St. Paul's during their stay.

[Jeneece Place](#) is a home where children and their families can stay while receiving medical care in Victoria. It is owned and operated by Children's Health Foundation and is located on the Victoria General Hospital grounds. There are 10 bedrooms and a kitchen, as well as dining, living and playrooms. There is also a backyard where kids can play.

[BC Family Residence Program](#) provides accommodation assistance to enable families to stay together when their child requires medical care at BC Children's Hospital. Enhanced travel assistance is also provided. Any family living 70km away from BC Children's Hospital with permanent residency in BC and Medical Services Plan coverage is eligible for assistance. Families must receive confirmation of eligibility from a medical or community service professional and reside outside the Metro Vancouver area.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS CLINIC VISIT CONFIRMATION
BC Cystic Fibrosis Subsidy Program

Please complete and submit with your application for reimbursement of expenses for travel and accommodation following your CF Clinic visit.

Name of Patient: _____

Address: _____

Date of CF Clinic Visit: _____

Clinic Attended:

BC Children's St. Paul's Victoria General Royal Jubilee

Other (outreach): _____

Signature of Clinic Official **Date**