

Travel and Lodging for Transplant Patients

Description of the travel and lodging benefits for out of area pre-authorized services related to organ transplants.

Travel Benefit

Memorial Hermann Medicare Advantage travel and lodging benefit is available for Medicare-covered transplant services when the approved transplant facility is out of the regularly covered service area away from the member's primary home residence. Prior authorization for transplant services must be in place.

Medicare Guidelines

Medicare covers specific solid organ transplants at facilities that have a Medicare provider agreement and are certified by CMS for the procedure (CMS 100-03 Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual Chapter 1 Part § 260).

Medicare also covers certain other types of transplants, such as stem cells and cornea. These transplants may not be limited to CMS certified facilities (CMS 100-003 Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual Chapter 1 Part 2 § 110).

Applicable Benefit

When a Medicare Advantage plan provides a Medicare covered transplant service at a distant location (further than the normal community patterns of care), the plan must:

Provide reasonable transportation for the member and a companion to the distant facility and provide reasonable accommodations for the member and a companion while present in the distant location for the transplant care (CMS Medicare Managed Care Manual, Chapter 4 Benefit and Beneficiary Protections § 10.11 (Rev. 115, 08-23-13)).

Memorial Hermann Health Plan coverage for travel and lodging related to a Medicare covered organ transplant is available for the eligible Medicare Advantage members with an approved prior authorization for a covered organ transplant provided at a distant location.

Travel and lodging expenses are covered for the covered member (excluding inpatient hospital admission) and one companion, subject to eligibility of the member and an approved prior authorization for transplant services. The combined maximum reimbursement allowed for travel and lodging per transplant episode is \$5,000 Lodging expenses are limited to \$250 per day, which applies to the \$5,000 maximum.

PROCEDURE

General Requirements

Transplant travel benefits require prior authorization and are subject to the plan benefits and criteria outlined below.

- Travel reimbursement is limited to the evaluation, the trip to the transplant center for the transplant procedure, and the initial post-transplant period after discharge if the transplant program requires the member to remain in the local area of the transplant facility.
- For this travel benefit, two or more organs (i.e., heart and lungs) transplanted during one hospitalization are considered one transplant and reimbursed subject to the \$5,000 combined maximum for the episode of care.
- Lodging expenses are limited up to \$250 per day and apply to the combined \$5,000 travel and lodging maximum.

Transplant travel includes: air, rail, automobile (personal vehicle or rental), or bus transport. If a rental vehicle is used, rental fees and gasoline are covered, but not mileage.

Transportation related charges are limited to one roundtrip for the evaluation, and one roundtrip for the transplant. Automobile reimbursement for personal vehicle usage is based on roundtrip mileage from the member's home to the transplant center and is based on the federal mileage reimbursement rate for personal cars being driven for medical purposes. Memorial Hermann Health Plan will reimburse allowed mileage for use of personal vehicle (as per IRS guidelines) driven for medical or moving purposes.

- If medical transport is medically necessary at the time an organ becomes available, it will be arranged by the transplant coordinator and is subject to the member's air or ground ambulance medical benefit. This cost is not applied to the \$5,000 combined travel and lodging maximum.

- Expense reports, including legible receipts for travel, and lodging must be submitted within six months of incurred expense to be eligible for reimbursement.

Billing Codes

A0090 – non-emergency transportation per mile vehicle provided by individual (family member, self, neighbor) with vested interest

A0100 – non-emergency transportation, taxi

A0110 – non-emergency transportation, bus intra or interstate carrier

A0140 –non-emergency transportation and air travel (private or commercial) intra or interstate

A0170 – transportation, ancillary; parking, fees, tolls, other

A0180 – non-emergency transportation: ancillary: lodging-recipient

A0200 – nonemergency transportation: ancillary: lodging-escort/companion

Required forms

Member reimbursement

[34 member-reimbursement-medical-claim-form.ashx \(memorialhermann.org\)](https://www.memorialhermann.org/34-member-reimbursement-medical-claim-form.ashx)

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