

## MTAP Non-Medical Escort Policy

In specific cases, MTAP may cover the costs of a **non-medical escort** to accompany a patient who cannot travel alone due to legal or medical reasons outside their home community for specialized insured medical services.

When approved, the **non-medical escort** may be eligible for coverage of transportation, accommodations, and meals.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Non-Medical Escorts (Medical Note Required)**

Coverage for one non-medical escort may be approved if the patient:

- Requires legal consent or immediate decision-making that cannot be done remotely (e.g., no phone access).
- Needs assistance with daily living activities (e.g., dressing, eating, bathing) in an outpatient setting.
- Is undergoing a procedure involving general anesthesia.
- Has a diagnosed cognitive or physical impairment requiring travel support.
- Requires the escort to receive essential medical or nursing instructions that cannot be provided to the patient alone.

*Escort coverage may begin one day before discharge, or up to three days prior with senior management approval.*

- Is a pregnant patient traveling for childbirth or medically required to be closer to care while awaiting childbirth.

**Note:** A medical note from a physician is required to support the request for an escort. This documentation should explain how the patient's medical condition, illness, injury, or treatment makes an escort medically necessary.

- Not holding a valid driver's license or being unable to drive—when unrelated to a medical condition—does not meet the criteria for financial assistance.
- Emotional support, while important, does not qualify for coverage under the escort policy, whether the patient is receiving care as an inpatient or outpatient.

## **Eligibility Criteria for Non-Medical Escorts (No Medical Note Required)**

- Patients under **18 years** or **80 years and older**.
- Existing documentation from the current fiscal year supports the ongoing escort need, if:
  - Previously approved escort for a series of treatments.
  - A permanent condition impairs cognitive or physical ability, requiring continuous travel assistance.

## **Medivac and Ambulance Transport**

Patients transported by **medivac or road ambulance** to and from an in-province medical facility, and who remain **inpatients** throughout their stay, are **not eligible** for a non-medical escort.

This applies even if the escort also travelled by medivac or road ambulance—**unless the patient is a minor (under 18 years old)**.

## **Escort Requirements**

To qualify as an escort, the individual must:

- **Travel with the patient** to and from their home community within Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **Be capable and willing** to provide necessary support throughout the entire trip.
- **Be able to:**
  - Sign consent forms or provide relevant patient history.
  - Offer physical and personal care as needed.
  - Drive, if required.
  - Share personal space with the patient (e.g., accommodations, seating).

Escorts who require assistance or special accommodations will **not** have any additional costs related to their own needs covered by the program.

## Limitations and Cost Considerations

- If a patient is unexpectedly hospitalized or remains in the hospital for an extended period, assistance with escort expenses for accommodations and meals may be considered—**up to a maximum of seven days**.  
Fewer days may be approved depending on the situation.  
Eligibility is assessed case by case and requires, among other criteria, that the escort originally travelled with the patient.
- In some situations, it may be more cost-effective for the escort to return home and later travel back to accompany the patient upon discharge.

**Exception:** For certain out-of-province patient types (e.g., transplant patients) where a patient escort is mandatory, **extended assistance will be considered**.