

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.**