

Notice of Access Service Available to Eligible Medical Assistance Program Recipients

Cook County Public Health & Human Services
411 West Second Street
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Phone: 218-387-3620 ♦ Fax: 218-387-3020

1. Transportation:

The Cook County Health Care Access Plan will pay for the most cost-effective form of transportation to get you to the closest provider capable of providing the level of care needed.

- A. If you drive yourself, or have a friend, household member, or relative drive you; you or your driver will be paid at a rate of **22** cents per mile.
- B. If you need a driver, your driver can only receive reimbursement for the miles you are present in the vehicle.
- C. You may request reimbursement for mileage, meals, lodging and parking as appropriate for the required care.
- D. If an organized volunteer driver program provides transportation, the volunteer driver will be paid up to 100% of the current IRS business deduction rate effective on the date of service.
- E. If you have a Health Plan (for example: UCare/Blue Plus/Medica/Health Partners) you must arrange bus, cab, or other commercial carrier transportation with the managed care plan – refer to your health plan member service contact.
- F. If you have Medical Assistance without a Health Plan (for example UCare/Blue Plus/Medica/Health Partners), call the Health Care Access Coordinator before making arrangement for bus, cab or another commercial carrier. To ride the AEOA Bus for medical trips to Duluth, you must get prepaid bus tickets in advance.
- G. Transport for medical service that is obtained from a primary care provider is limited to 30 miles from your home/residence and 60 miles from your home/residence when obtained from a specialty care provider. Prior authorization to exceed the 30 or 60 mile transport limits must be requested to our agency and must be based on medical necessity with no other provider capable of providing the level of care needed in closer proximity to your residence. You will be required to supply documentation as to why care must be received at a location exceeding the 30 or 60 mile limit. A referral does not, by itself, satisfy the closest provider requirement.
- H. If a companion is requested by the medical provider for you to get the necessary medical care, he/she can also be paid meals and lodging costs at the same rate. Written and signed verification from your physician and/or treatment plan is necessary to document the need for a companion.
- I. You may receive reimbursement for transportation and related expenses for the time prior to your application date if you received retroactive Medical Assistance coverage.
- J. If you appeal a decision on your Medical Assistance case, you are eligible to be reimbursed for the cost of transportation and related expenses while you are attending the appeal hearing. Child Care costs, if necessary during an appeal hearing, are also eligible for reimbursement.
- K. If you have Minnesota Care eligibility, Cook County PHHS does not reimburse for transportation costs. Contact Minnesota Care call center at 1-800-657-3672.

2. To get paid:

- A. Contact Cook County Public Health and Human Services to get a Health Care Access Claim Form (green) prior to your appointment. If you have an emergency, contact the Health Care Access Coordinator as soon as possible after the emergency to make arrangements for reimbursement of expenses.
- B. If you need to travel more than 30 miles for primary medical care or more than 60 miles for specialty medical care from your home/residence, you must contact our agency for prior authorization. If you choose to receive medical care from a provider who is not the closest option capable of providing the necessary medical service, you must pay for your own transportation, meal and lodging costs. This includes emergencies.
- C. Prior authorization from the Health Care Access Coordinator is required for overnight stays. Attach receipt to the Health Care Access Claim form. There must be a medical need to have an earlier appointment than a time that would allow same day travel. To be eligible for lodging reimbursement, you must be traveling a one-way distance at minimum of 60 miles to obtain medical care.
- D. For meal reimbursement, you must provide itemized receipts with individually identifiable meal costs according to the maximum rates listed below. Meal receipts must include time and date of purchase. Reimbursement is not allowed for groceries, alcohol or gratuity and each meal expense must be incurred at one sitting. To be eligible for meal reimbursement, you must be traveling a one-way distance at minimum of 60 miles to obtain medical care.
- E. Receipts are needed for a parking ramp but no receipt is needed for a parking meter.
- F. Complete the green claim form, and submit within 30 days after your medical appointment to the Health Care Access Coordinator at Cook County Public Health and Human Services, 411 West Second Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604. Any claims submitted after 90 days of the appointment date will be denied. Each form must be for only one recipient and include:
 - Date of care, detailed information regarding patient's travel expenses
 - Doctor's signature
 - Attach appointment card (if applicable)
 - Attach receipts for meals, parking ramp, and/or motel costs
 - Claimant's signature.

3. Reimbursement Rates:

- A. Meals - The maximum reimbursement for meals is:
 - Breakfast \$5.50
 - Noon Meal \$6.50
 - Dinner \$8.00

Reimbursements may be claimed only if the recipient is required to be in travel status for the purpose of a medical appointment over sixty (60) miles one-way from his/her home during the normal meal period. The normal meal period is: breakfast before 6:00 a.m.; lunch between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.; and dinner after 7:00 p.m.

- B. Lodging may be paid at actual cost up to \$50 per night. In certain situations, and with prior authorization, the room rates may exceed \$50.
- C. Parking fees, bus, cab and other commercial carrier fares will be paid at actual cost. Meters do not require parking receipts.