

# Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)

Fact sheet for non-commercial clinical  
trials

<https://iptaas.health.nsw.gov.au>



## How can IPTAAS assist your patients?

The Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) is a NSW government scheme that provides financial assistance to eligible patients who travel for treatment not available locally.

IPTAAS provides eligible patients a subsidy to assist with travel and accommodation costs, but it is not intended to cover all costs associated with accessing treatment.

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## Who is eligible for IPTAAS?

A patient is eligible for IPTAAS if they are:

- a resident of NSW or Lord Howe Island
- enrolled with Medicare
- not be receiving, or eligible for, financial assistance for travel and accommodation from third party insurance or other Australian State and Territory government services
- referred for treatment at their nearest health service
- receiving treatment at an eligible health service
- traveling from their residence for treatment at least 100km (one way), or at least 200kms in a week by making multiple trips to and from the same treatment location.

Patient eligibility is assessed with each claim.

For more information, please refer to the [IPTAAS Website](#).

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## Clinical trials treatment approved by IPTAAS

For specialised medical treatment to be approved by IPTAAS, your patient must travel to an appointment or receive treatment at an eligible health service.

Clinical trials are eligible services under IPTAAS if the clinical trial is non-commercial. Clinical trials that are conducted without a commercial company acting as a sponsor are non-commercial. To be eligible for IPTAAS, a patient must not receive, or be eligible for financial assistance for travel and accommodation from the clinical trial.

Clinical trials must be registered on the [Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry](#) (ANZCTR) to be eligible for IPTAAS.

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## What financial assistance is available?

IPTAAS provides financial support towards travel and accommodation. Patients can claim financial assistance towards the following:

- private vehicle travel
  - public transport (trains, buses, and ferries)
  - taxis (includes ride sharing like Uber)
  - air travel (in special circumstances)
  - accommodation (private, not for profit or commercial).
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## Air travel

If patients are required to travel by air, an air approval code is required from IPTAAS before they can fly.

To get an air approval code the referring health professional, medical practitioner, health service or their authorised representative must contact IPTAAS.

If a patient and an escort are approved for air travel, they are entitled to a subsidy of the cost of the economy rate of the flight (see section 4.1.3 in the [IPTAAS Assessment Guidelines](#)).

For more information on how to request air approval please refer to Section 4.1.3.1 in the [IPTAAS Assessment Guidelines](#).

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## Escorts

An escort is an adult who travels and/or stays with a patient and provides them with support during their treatment. Patients are entitled to one escort.

A patient is eligible for two escorts if they are:

- An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person; or,
- If they are a child and their health service provides written confirmation that their condition is life threatening.

A patient may receive additional subsidies if accompanied by an escort. More information about subsidies for patients accompanied by an escort is provided in section 4 of the [Assessment Guidelines](#).

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## Bulk bill accommodation

Bulk billing is when an accommodation facility invoices IPTAAS directly for a patient's accommodation costs.

To determine if your patient is eligible for bulk billing their accommodation costs, written approval must be obtained from IPTAAS before they leave the accommodation facility.

A list of [registered bulk billed accommodation providers](#) for IPTAAS can be found on our [website](#).

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## Where can I get more information or help?

Call the IPTAAS team on 1800 478 227 or visit [iptaas.health.nsw.gov.au](http://iptaas.health.nsw.gov.au).