

Transplant travel and lodging benefit

All BCBSKS Blue Medicare Advantage plans

Transplant travel and lodging benefits

Travel and lodging benefit is associated with a Medicare covered organ transplant or clinical trial or with services defined in the Human Organ Transplant Services enhance benefit.

Original Medicare

Original Medicare covers travel and lodging only for Medicare approved organ transplants when the Medicare Advantage plan chooses to provide services at a Medicare approved transplant facility at a distant location that is farther away from the member's primary resident.

Medicare covers certain solid organ transplants at facilities that have a Medicare provider agreement and are certified by CMS for the relevant covered procedure. (Reference: CMS 10003 Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual Chapter 1 Part 4 § 260).

Medicare also covers certain other types of transplants, such as stem cell and cornea. These transplants may not be limited to CMS certified facilities. (Reference: CMS 100- 03 Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual Chapter 1 Part 2 § 110).

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.

(Reference: CMS Medicare Managed Care Manual, Chapter 4 Benefits and Beneficiary Protections Benefits and Beneficiary Protections § 10.11 (Rev. 115, 08-23-13))

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Medicare Advantage (PPO) benefit

BCBSKS Medicare Advantage (PPO) provides coverage for travel and lodging related organ transplant for eligible members with an approved prior authorization for a covered Medicare organ transplant provided at a distant location under all individual BCBSKS Medicare Advantage (PPO) plans.

Travel and lodging expenses are covered for the recipient (exclusive of inpatient hospital admission) and companion, subject to eligibility of the recipient and an approved prior authorization. The combined total maximum reimbursement allowed for travel and lodging per transplant episode of care is \$5,000. Lodging expenses are limited up to \$150 per day, which applies to the combined \$5,000 maximum.

Reimbursement

BCBSKS Medicare Advantage (PPO) plans determines reimbursement for covered travel and lodging benefits payable up

to a combine maximum amount. Travel and Lodging benefits requires prior authorization and are subject to the plan benefit 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 the purpose of 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 \$150 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 round trip for the evaluation, and one round trip for the transplant. Automobile reimbursement for personal vehicle usage is based on round trip 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. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas will reimburse allowed mileage for use of personal vehicle (as per IRS guidelines) driven for medical or moving purposes.

- If private jet 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 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.

Member cost-sharing

BCBSKS Medicare Advantage PPO members have no cost-sharing responsibilities for travel and lodging services. If a member elects to receive a non-covered service, they are responsible for the entire charge associated with that service.

To verify member eligibility, benefits, and cost share, please contact Provider Services at 800-240-0577.

Member reimbursement

To be reimbursed for covered services, members must submit their request along with the following information to the address below.

- Member name
- Member BCBSKS PPO contract and group number
- Member street address (no P.O. boxes)
 - Starting location
 - Approved transplant facility
 - Lodging facility
- Legible bills and itemized statements
- Payable 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 – non-emergency transportation: ancillary: lodging-escort.

The member will send the request and all supporting information to the following address:

BCBS Kansas
P.O. Box 211355
Eagan, MN 55121

Revisions

Policy number: PR MATT A001

01/01/2020	Policy effective
03/01/2023	Updated to reflect 2023 benefits and plan offerings
01/01/2024	Updated to reflect current plans throughout and usage of gender neutral terms