



GETTING TO YOUR CANCER APPOINTMENTS

Sometimes getting to cancer appointments may be a concern. Here are some options to consider when deciding what is right for you:

Taxis

Regular or wheelchair accessible taxis may be available, contact services in your local area

- ***Taxi Saver Coupons** are available to purchase at ½ price when you qualify for HandyDart and have a HandyPass. Refer to HandyDart for contact information

Health Shuttles & Private Community Programs (in some areas)

Hospitals, care facilities and community resources may offer free or low cost shuttles that can transport you to and from your appointments

e.g. **Central Surrey Health Shuttle** - view schedule at www.fraserhealth.ca/surreyshuttle

Non-Emergency Hospital Transfers

Services that provide non-emergency stable patient transfers may be available. Rates vary depending on mobility needs such as wheelchair versus stretcher service

- **SN Transports** offers this service to patients in the Lower Mainland www.sntransport.ca
- **Medi Van Canada** offers this service in Kelowna and on Vancouver Island www.medivancanada.com/index.html

Extended Health Benefits

With Extended Health Benefits through an employer, you may be eligible for re-imbusement for travel or mileage costs. Refer to your benefits administrator for details

BC Health Connections

Regional Health Authorities and various transportation services have partnered together to offer various low cost alternatives in order to assist patients who must travel out of area to medical appointments. To become eligible for services a person must complete an application process and/or make prior arrangements

- ***HandyDart** provides special transportation programs for those who cannot use the regular bus system. Contact www.translink.ca for Greater Vancouver and Vancouver Island or www.transitbc.com for other areas
- **Travel Assistance Program (TAP)** forms are available from your family doctor, specialist or cancer centre. Escorts must be deemed essential and accompany the patient. Go to

Treo Toll Exemption

Those certified with a permanent disability can apply for exemption from the Port Mann Bridge Tolls www.treo.ca
Call 604.516.TREO (8736)



Disabled Parking Permit

To apply to use the disabled parking spaces, refer to www.sparc.bc.ca
Call 604.718.7744
Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Prince George
&
In Kelowna, refer to City Hall
www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page1722.aspx
Call 250.469.8757

www.health.gov.bc.ca/tapbc/tap_patient.html or call toll free: 1.800.661.2668 and in Victoria: 250.952.1587

- **Northern Health Medical Transportation Service** provides bus transportation to medical appointments outside the local area. Go to <http://northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/NHConnections%28medicaltravelservice%29.aspx> or call toll-free 1.888.647.4997
- **Wheels for Wellness** provide medical transportation to Vancouver Island communities. Go to <http://wheelsforwellness.com/> or call 250.338.0196

BC Ferries

For patients who must travel on BC Ferries, refer to the website for disability and access options www.bcferrries.com/travel_planning/disabilities.html (refer to *Travel Assistance Program* also)

Private Charity Flights

- **Hope Air** is a non-profit charitable organization that arranges free flights for those who need to travel for medical reasons and are in financial need. Go to www.hopeair.org for details

Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)

- **Volunteer Drivers Programs:** CCS has volunteer drivers and has a partnership with the Freemasons in some communities to provide transportation for people receiving cancer treatment but have difficulties getting a ride to their appointments. Rides are based on the availability of volunteers. Requests for transportation must be received by noon, two business days prior to your appointment. Call toll free 1.888.939.3333
- **Financial Support Program:** If you have low income and cannot afford the cost of travelling out of town for appointments, you can apply to the CCS, Financial Support Program. You may receive financial help for your mileage costs but first, you **must** be accepted into the program to be eligible - CCS does not back pay. Go to their website under Support & Services or call toll free 1.888.939.3333

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSDSI)

- **BC Bus Pass Program** is a low cost bus pass that is available to eligible low-income earners. Bus passes cost \$45 for the year ending December 31. The cost is the same no matter when you apply during the year. Request application at www.sd.gov.bc.ca/programs/bus-pass.html
- **Specialized Transportation Subsidy** is available if you are receiving income assistance through MSDSI. This subsidy allows you to access transportation costs in lieu of the use of a bus pass through the BC Bus Pass Program. Go to www.sd.gov.bc.ca/programs/other.htm#sts