

Information Sheet – For Patients

Health Care Within Canada – Are You Covered?

April 20, 2022

Coverage Overview:

The costs of travel, accommodation and meals to access medical services are not insured under Saskatchewan’s health system.

Before leaving the province, confirm that your health card is valid and will be honored in the province you are traveling to, by contacting eHealth Saskatchewan.

Toll Free: 1-800-667-7551 (Canada or US)

Phone: 306-787-3251

<https://www.ehealthsask.ca/residents/health-cards>

Most medically necessary **physician and hospital** services are billed between provinces through a reciprocal billing arrangement when provided within the **publicly funded** healthcare system. To confirm costs are billed reciprocally, you or your Saskatchewan physician must contact the office of the service provider in the other province.

There are some services the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health covers that are excluded from this arrangement and may require **prior approval BEFORE** the service(s) is received.

Prior Approval Coverage:

In certain circumstances and for specific conditions a **Saskatchewan specialist physician**, in the same field of practice as the required service, may be required to submit a **written prior approval request to the Ministry of Health**. The written request must describe the circumstances of the case, including why the service(s) are medically required, why it must be obtained outside of the province, and clearly describe the service(s) being requested. The written request must also state whether the service(s) are available in Saskatchewan.

The decision regarding cost coverage is provided in writing from the Ministry of Health to the requesting specialist. It is the **responsibility of the specialist physician** to follow up with the patient regarding the outcome of the request and to discuss the patient’s plan for ongoing care.

More Information Resources:

- *“It’s For Your Benefit”* Booklet (available online)
- Contact your Saskatchewan primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)
- Visit www.saskatchewan.ca – Search “coverage outside SK”
- Medical Services Branch, Ministry of Health
3475 Albert St. Regina, SK S4S 6X6
Phone: 306-798-0013 / Fax: 306-798-1124
prss@health.gov.sk.ca