

Saskatchewan

Source: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/prescription-drug-plans-and-health-coverage/health-benefits-coverage/out-of-province-and-out-of-canada-coverage>

For More Information:

Ministry of Health – Medical Services Branch

Telephone Regina: 306-787-3475
Toll-free 1-800-667-7523

Mail Saskatchewan Ministry of Health
Medical Services Branch
3475 Albert Street
Regina, SK S4S 6X6

Out-of-Province

Prior approval is required for services related to alcohol and drug, mental health, and problem gambling issues. Requests for out-of-province assessment and/or treatment are only accepted from Regional Health Authorities or the Physician Support Program of the Saskatchewan Medical Association. Once a request is submitted, it is reviewed by the Ministry of Health according to the out-of-province policy. If approved, the Ministry will pay the full cost of the assessment or treatment service. The cost of travel, accommodation, and meals are not eligible for coverage or reimbursement.

Please note that you will not be reimbursed for the cost of services accessed without prior approval.

Out-of-Country

If a specialist physician refers you outside Canada for treatment not available in Saskatchewan or another province, they must ask for prior approval, in writing, from the Medical Services Plan of Saskatchewan Health. The request must:

- Describe the circumstances of the case;
- Clearly describe the service(s) being requested; and
- State – to the best of the specialist’s knowledge – that the service(s) are not available anywhere in Canada.

Referring specialists may call 306-787-3299 for further details about the prior approval process.

If the treatment is approved, Saskatchewan Health will pay the full cost of treatment at a rate that the Ministry considers to be fair and reasonable after taking into account the locality in which the insured service is being provided

Health Services Review Committee (HSRC)

This committee reviews government decisions made on requests for out-of-province and out-of-country medical coverage, ensuring legislation, policy and guidelines are followed appropriately.

Reviews for denied coverage can be requested if the requested coverage is for insured out-of-province or out-of-country medical services (physician and hospital care) or community care programs (mental health, alcohol and drug, problem gambling, home care and rehabilitative services).

The Ministry will inform eligible applicants of their right to request a review by the HSRC.

Applications Process

Eligible applicants must submit a written application to the HSRC within 90 days after the date the Ministry made its coverage decision.

Online application form: <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/redirect.cfm?p=87716&i=104407>

Send the completed application to:

Health Services Review Committee
TC Douglas Building
3475 Albert Street
Regina, SK S4S 6X6
Phone : 306-787-1910
Fax: 306-787-3761

You may submit to the HSRC additional information that was not previously provided to the Ministry in its coverage decision. This information will be forwarded to the Ministry to reconsider its decision. If the additional information does not result in a change in the Ministry's coverage decision, the HSRC will schedule a meeting to review your request.

The Ministry has 30 days from receiving your application to inform you of the date that the HSRC will consider your application. In cases of clinical urgency, the committee may be convened to conduct a review with a quicker turnaround time. The committee will consider whether the legislation, policies and guidelines governing out-of province and out-of country coverage were followed by the Ministry in making its coverage decision. Following the review, the committee will provide you with its recommendation as soon as possible.

If the committee turns down your request you may contact the Provincial Ombudsman. The Ombudsman not only reviews whether the Ministry followed policy appropriately, but also assesses the fairness and equity of the decision. Note: The Provincial Ombudsman is not able to review past Ministry decisions; it only has the authority to make recommendations.