

ALBERTA

Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/ahcip-out-of-country-health-funding.aspx>

For More Information:

Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan

Telephone	Edmonton area: 780-415-8744 Toll Free (elsewhere in Alberta): dial 310-0000, then 780-415-8744
Fax	780-415-0963
E-mail (for general information or non-personal questions about insurance coverage ONLY)	health.ahcipmail@gov.ab.ca
Mail	Chair, Out-of-Country Health Services Committee PO Box 1360, Station Main Edmonton AB T5J 2N3

Out-of-Province

Under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) and the Hospitals Act, eligible Alberta residents are provided coverage for insured physician and hospital services in Alberta and elsewhere in Canada. Alberta Health limits some coverage outside the province and covers only limited physician and hospital expenses outside Canada.

Out-of-Province Claim Form:

<https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/form/ahc0934.pdf>

Out-of-Country

- The Out-of-Country Health Services Committee (OOCHSC) considers applications for funding of insured medical, oral surgical and/or hospital services that are not available in Canada. Applications must be made by Alberta physicians or dentists on behalf of eligible Alberta residents.
- The Oochsc is made up of four Alberta physicians and one non-voting chair who is an employee of Alberta Health.
- Applications can be made only by an Alberta physician/dentist on behalf of an Alberta resident.

Applicant Conditions

- The application must be made on behalf of an Alberta resident who is registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). The services must be medical, oral surgical, and/or hospital services and insured under the AHCIP and/or the Hospitalization Benefits Plan.
- There must be documentation that the requested services are not available in Canada and the health services available in Canada have been fully utilized.
- The services must be medically necessary, according to an Alberta physician or dentist.
- Applications to the OCHSC for funding of health services that are non-emergent in nature must be declared complete prior to receiving the services.
- OCHSC applications are considered complete when all the required information has been submitted, the OCHSC Chair has notified the applicant in writing, and the application has been scheduled for review at an upcoming meeting.

Application Process

Online Application:

<https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/Form/AHC2176.pdf>

Applications must include the following documents/information:

a) A letter of referral/support, or a completed Application Form, including the following information:

- The health services/treatment for which funding is requested.
- Expected duration of the initial out-of-country health services and the dates on which the health services will be provided.
- The number and frequency of expected out-of-country follow-up visits, if any.
- Address of the out-of-country facility where the health services are to be obtained.
- Name and specialty of the out-of-country physician who will provide and/or coordinate the health services.
- The arrangements that have been made for follow-up care in Alberta or elsewhere in Canada.

b) The reason for seeking funding for out-of-country health services and a minimum of one of the following to support that reason:

- Documentation confirming that relevant health services in Alberta and elsewhere in Canada have been fully utilized.
- Documentation confirming that the health service is not available in Alberta or elsewhere in Canada.
- If the health service is available in Alberta or elsewhere in Canada, an explanation as to why it is not being utilized.

c) A recent health history/summary of the patient that is relevant to the health service for which funding is requested, prepared by an Alberta physician or dentist and which must include:

- The clinical diagnosis relevant to the application.
- Any health services previously provided for the condition, when and where they were provided, and the outcome.
- Copies of existing relevant findings and/or reports from specialists and/or consultants
- Copies of relevant diagnostic and laboratory reports.
- If applicable, additional health services considered or explored but not pursued and the reason(s) why.

Approval

Once the OCHSC chair has determined that an application is complete, the OCHSC has 60 days to assess the application and make a decision. If the application is urgent for medical reasons, the physician or dentist must state this on the application, along with the reasons for the urgency and the timeframe within which it is recommended that the health services/treatment be initiated.

The OCHSC will send a written copy of its decision with reasons to the applicant and the patient on whose behalf the application was made, within 10 days of making its decision.

Appeal Process

Decisions made by the OCHSC can be appealed. Appeals may be submitted by the Alberta physician or dentist who submitted the application for the Alberta resident, or by the Alberta resident. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel within 60 days of the appellant receiving the OCHSC decision letter. The appeal letter must be sent either:

By mail to:

Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel
PO Box 1360, Station Main
Edmonton AB T5J 2N3

Or by fax to:

780-644-1445

Attention: Chair, Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel