



PATS Information Sheet Patients, Carers, Referring Practitioners and Specialists



The combined PATS Application / Claim Form **replaces** the yellow PATS Application form and the blue PATS Certification form

About the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS):

- To receive assistance you must be a permanent resident of country WA and eligible for Medicare.
- PATS is a subsidy scheme and does not cover all costs associated with your travel or accommodation.
- You must need to travel more than 100 kms (one way) to access the **nearest** eligible medical specialist service *or* travel between 70–100 kms (one way) to access specialist medical treatment for cancer or dialysis.
- PATS assistance may be declined if the specialist service you need to access is **available locally** or is able to be conducted via Telehealth. Specialist availability differs from region to region and it is important that you contact your local PATS office.

What is covered?

- Most specialist medical services covered under Medicare are eligible under PATS. You or your GP may be asked to provide the Medical Benefit Schedule (MBS) item number to verify eligibility.
- Services provided by General Practitioners, dentists, nursing services and allied health services (e.g. speech pathology, physiotherapy, podiatry, clinical psychology, orthodontics, occupational therapy, audiology and pathology) are **NOT** covered under PATS. Check with your local PATS office before you travel.
- Not being eligible for PATS does not stop you arranging or attending the specialist service of your choice; however you will not be eligible for PATS assistance.

What kind of assistance is available?

- Travel: A per kilometre subsidy if you use your own vehicle *or* the cost of a commercial economy class fare to travel on the most economical form of transport. For those travelling between 70–100 kms undergoing cancer treatment or renal dialysis limited PATS assistance is provided. Check with your local PATS office to confirm eligibility.
- Accommodation: Subsidies are available for people living more than 100 kms away who are required to stay overnight for medical reasons, distance or transport schedules.
- Escort: eligible for; people receiving cancer treatment, the frail, people with disabilities or to accompany a patient under the age of 18 years.
- Travel and Accommodation in Advance: For this type of assistance you must contact your local PATS Office as soon as your appointment date has been confirmed.
- Taxi Vouchers / Reimbursement: These are **not** routinely provided and are assessed on a case by case basis according to the clinical information provided by your doctor. The travel subsidy provides assistance from your home town to the city or town of your specialist appointment.

What does the combined form entail and what are the major changes to make it easier for all users?

- The application, certification and claim for reimbursement are all on one form.
- Specialists can now refer on to other specialists / specialties.
- Patients can now provide bank details and receive their subsidy via bank transfer.

WACHS VERSION DATED JUNE 2019

COMPLETING THE COMBINED PATS FORM:

Section A: Patient Details

- Ensure all your personal details including Medicare number and signature are provided where requested.
- For patients requiring assistance prior to travelling please ensure you lodge your application and provide proof of your appointment *before* you travel to ensure eligibility.

Section B: Referring Practitioner

- To be completed by the **referring Practitioner ONLY**. All information is required to assess the eligibility of the application; including clinical details to support a referral to a Specialist which IS NOT the closest.
- If an escort or specific transport is required details must be provided based on clinical requirements.
- The referring Practitioner must sign and provide their provider number and contact details.

Section C: Confirmation of attendance at your Specialist Appointment and claim for subsidy

- Section C – PATIENT, to be completed and signed by the patient.
- Section C – SPECIALIST must be completed and signed by the **Specialist or clinic employee** to verify attendance.
- Your specialist may need to refer you on to different specialists / specialties and can do so via this form. This will eliminate you having to return to your local GP for subsequent applications. Added specialties are still subject to PATS eligibility criteria (eg the new referral must be to the nearest eligible specialist).
- Patients who make return journeys to eligible specialists / specialties are not required to fill in SECTION A again, unless you have changed your details. Initial applications are valid for 12 months and upon expiry a new application needs to be re-submitted for approval.
- You must return the form with Section C completed to your Regional PATS Office even if you have had your subsidy paid in advance to ensure continued assistance.

PATS REGIONAL OFFICES

Goldfields Kalgoorlie (08) 9080 5681 Esperance (08) 9079 8101	Wheatbelt 1800 728 792 PATS forms can be lodged at all hospitals within the Wheatbelt
Midwest (08) 9956 2216 PATS forms can be lodged at all hospitals within the Midwest	Pilbara 1800 138 653 PATS forms can be lodged at all hospitals within the Pilbara
Great Southern Albany (08) 9892 2226 Denmark (08) 9848 0600 Mount Barker (08) 9892 1222 Gnowangerup (08) 9827 2222 Katanning (08) 9821 6222 Kojonup (08) 9831 2222 Ravensthorpe (08) 9838 2211	Kimberley Broome (08) 9194 2236 Derby (08) 9193 3348 Fitzroy Crossing (08) 9166 1715 Kununurra (08) 9166 4237
South West 1800 823 131	Further information is also available via wacountry.health.wa.gov.au

For email, post and fax details please contact your nearest office

THIS IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT ON REQUEST