

Getting to Treatment

**Getting between home and cancer treatment can be hard.
In Nova Scotia, there are a few resources that can help.**

I am going to have trouble getting to treatment. Where can I get help?

In Nova Scotia, we do not have a province-wide driving service for cancer patients. You may find assistance through:

Canadian Cancer Society Travel Treatment Fund

The Canadian Cancer Society provides help with travel costs for cancer patients. To be eligible you must be travelling more than 200 km one way for treatment OR have at least 10 treatment related appointments. This program is income dependent and notice of assessment is required for all household members. See their website for more information:

<https://cancer.ca/en/living-with-cancer/how-we-can-help/transportation>

MSI: Board/Transportation/Ostomy (BTO) Program

The MSI BTO Program provides reimbursement for transportation costs (taxi or shuttle) or assistance with the cost of transportation (mileage reimbursement) for cancer patients to get to most of their cancer related appointments.

To take part in this program, you have to:

- Be a resident of Nova Scotia with a valid Nova Scotia health card
- Have a gross family income no greater than \$35,000 per year

For more information call 902-496-7011 or toll free 1-866-553-0585

Email: bto_programs@medavie.bluecross.ca

By Mail:

Boarding, Transportation and Ostomy Program, Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs,
PO Box 500, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2S1

Your Community

Some communities do offer local or volunteer transportation services. These services will depend on where you live. Some charge a fee. You can get information on these programs at <http://www.communitytransitns.ca> or by calling 211. You can also check the bulletin boards at your local cancer centre or check with staff about what is available in your area.

Local Charities

Sometimes, charities or other organizations can help with expenses like gas money. This will depend on where you live. Your Clinic Nurse, Social Worker, or local Cancer Patient Navigator can help you find out about local programs.

The VON Transportation Program

This service provides affordable door-to-door transportation for seniors and adults who need assistance because of a disability living in Halifax Regional Municipality. To register for the VON Transportation program or to obtain more information please call 902-454-5755.

Please contact the Cancer Patient Navigator or Social Worker in your area to see if this service is available where you live.

What if I need accessible transportation?

If you need accessible transportation because you use a wheelchair or cannot travel in a car, there are some services available. Most of these services charge a fee.

If you live in the Halifax Regional Municipality, there is the Access-a-Bus service through Metro Transit. You have to register for this service and book your trips ahead of time. To find out more and to get a registration form, go to:

<https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit/access-a-bus>.

You may also call 311 and choose option 1 for transportation.

If you live outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality, ask your Clinic Nurse, Social Worker or Cancer Patient Navigator for information on local services.

Can I claim my expenses on my income taxes?

In some circumstances you can claim your expenses on your income tax. For more information, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/income-tax.html>.

If you need more information or help for travel concerns:

- Halifax area: call the Psychosocial Oncology Self Referral Line 902-240-8129.
- Sydney: contact the Social Worker at the Cape Breton Cancer Centre at 902-567-8551.
- Yarmouth (Tri-Counties): contact the Social Worker at 902-740-1704.
- South Shore (Lunenburg/Queens Counties) or the Valley (Annapolis, Kings, and West Hants): contact the Social Worker at 902-599-2945.
- Antigonish area: contact the Social Worker by calling the Oncology Department at St. Martha's Regional Hospital at 902-867-4500 ext 4993.
- Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou Counties: contact the Social Worker at 902-397-3125.
- To contact a Cancer Patient Navigator in your area, please call 1-866-524-1234.

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This pamphlet is for educational purposes only.

It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.