

Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) Flight Confirmation Form – to be completed by treating medical/dental specialist or general practitioner

When to complete this form:

When a VPTAS applicant is claiming a subsidy for a commercial flight.

A full VPTAS application form or a specialist confirmation form (for online applications) is also required for supporting a claim submission. Please refer to the [VPTAS website for details <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/rural-health/victorian-patient-transport-assistance-scheme-vptas>](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/rural-health/victorian-patient-transport-assistance-scheme-vptas).

Who can receive a subsidy for a commercial flight?

A patient must meet **all** the following criteria to be eligible for a flight subsidy:

- resides greater than 350 kilometres (one way) from the treatment location
- take/s a commercial flight/s directly from the airport closest to the patient's residence to a capital city within Australia
- has confirmation from the specialist or general practitioner the specialist service could not be provided at a closer location
- has confirmation from the specialist or general practitioner the patient meets one of the clinical criteria (see right)

The patient is also required to book the most economical fare option. Travel via **flexible fare flights** are only reimbursed under exceptional circumstances – supporting evidence is required.

Clinical Criteria for Flight Subsidy:

A patient must meet **one** of the following criteria:

Undergoing active clinical management with any of the following:

- requiring ambulatory oxygen
- requiring regular urinary catheterisation
- requiring frequent nebuliser therapy
- a health condition that will be worsened by or difficult to manage during lengthy private vehicle or public transport travel

Musculoskeletal instability or restricted mobility

with any of the following:

- stabilised bone fracture
- muscular disorder where constant movement during lengthy private vehicle or public transport travel would compromise their healing or treatment outcome
- spinal cord injury
- requires significant assistance moving which prevents travel via private vehicle or public transport

Pain management

- with any of the following:
- experiencing post operative pain within two weeks of an operation
 - bone metastasis
 - a prolapsed herniated disc
 - severe pain that will be worse during lengthy car or public transport travel.

Clinical urgency

- requiring the following:
- urgent non-emergency treatment arranged at short notice and would be unreasonable/impossible for patient to travel to their appointment by private vehicle or public transport in time for treatment.

Patient Details

Patient name

Date of birth / /

Confirmation Requirements

I confirm the specialist service for patient listed above could not be provided at a closer location

I confirm the patient meets one of the clinical criteria to access a commercial flight for travel related to their specialist treatment

Please complete **one of the following**:

Single treatment episode only

Travel Start End

*Multiple flights required within a treatment period (6-month maximum)

Travel Start End

*not applicable for clinical urgency criteria

Confirmation by specialist or general practitioner

As a specialist or general practitioner involved in the treatment of this patient, I confirm the information provided is true and correct

Name

Position Specialist General Practitioner

Phone number

Email

Specialist or general practitioner signature 

Date / /