



Patient Assisted Travel Scheme – Expanded specialist allied health and specialist dental services

Frequently asked questions

What is the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme?

The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) provides financial subsidies for eligible country WA residents to reduce the cost of accessing the closest specialist health services that are not available locally. People eligible for PATS can apply to subsidise the cost associated with travel, accommodation and/or a support person to accompany you.

How is PATS changing?

As of 1 July 2026, PATS eligibility has expanded to include selected specialist allied health and specialist dental services. This means there are now two pathways to apply for PATS (see ‘how do I apply for PATS’ below).

When will the changes come into effect?

Country residents will be able to claim reimbursements for eligible specialist allied health and specialist dental services from 1 July 2026.

Claims will be accepted for previous eligible appointments attended from 1 January 2026.

Which allied health services will be added to PATS?

Eligible specialist allied health services will include:

- Selected specialist allied health services delivered by the following tertiary public health service providers:
 - Perth Children’s Hospital (PCH)
 - Royal Perth Hospital (RPH)
 - Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital (SCGH)
 - Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH)
 - King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessment delivered by the Neurodevelopment Disability Assessment Service (NDAS).

[Click here to view the full list of eligible specialist allied health services.](#)

Public or private allied health services meeting the following criteria may require additional supporting evidence. These include:

- Audiology appointments related to cochlear implants
- Audiology appointments related to infant hearing tests for children under 12-months old (excluding general hearing test or hearing aids)
- Complex wheelchair assessment and review



- Prosthetic limb assessment, fitting and review

What if I am attending allied health appointments as well as eligible medical specialist appointments?

Where related allied health appointments coincide with medical specialist appointments, up to two nights of accommodation assistance may be considered while associated allied health appointments are completed.

Which dental services will be added to PATS?

Selected specialist dental services delivered by tertiary public health service providers (PCH, RPH, SCGH, FSH) inclusive of outreach locations at Busselton Health Campus and Katanning Health Service.

[Click here to view the full list of eligible specialist dental services.](#)

Public or private dental services meeting the following criteria may require additional supporting evidence.

- Hospital-based services under general anaesthetic and one or more of the following criteria:
 - Medical comorbidities
 - Special needs*
 - Aged 0-16 at the Oral Health Centre of WA
- Treatment provided under the Cleft Lip and Palate Scheme (Medicare Benefits Scheme – Category 7)
- Oral biopsy with a risk of cancer

What is the definition of special needs*?

The WA Health Public Dental Service defines special needs as:

- Having a developmental, physical, and/or intellectual disability and are unlikely to tolerate treatment in a mainstream service
- Have a Legal Guardian appointed
- Have critical impairments of:
 - Oral motor deficits (e.g. swallowing difficulties or reduced oral musculature control)
 - Behavioural issues (unable to sit in the dental chair)
 - Cognitive issues (unable to follow instructions/directions or unable to verbalise pain presentation)
- Requires extensive support or assistance for their day-to-day living needs.

What dental services are NOT eligible for PATS reimbursement?

- General dental or orthodontic services
- Wisdom teeth extraction, even if general anaesthetic or sedation is required or performed by an oral and maxillofacial specialist
- Orthodontic treatment (braces)
- Non-surgical temporo-mandibular (jaw) joint treatment
- Implant surgery or crown and bridge treatment
- Endodontics (root canal therapy)
- Periodontal (gum) surgery or treatment
- Routine oral medicine services
- Imaging provided as part of general dental care



What about oral maxillofacial surgery?

Oral maxillofacial surgery will now be managed under the medical specialty pathway, capturing management of severe trauma, dental infections and oral malignancy.

How do I apply for PATS

There are now **two pathways** to apply for PATS.

The pathway you follow to apply for PATS will depend on what type of health appointment(s) you are attending on your trip. A trip is a return journey from your home.

Refer to the below flowchart to help you determine which application pathway to use.



[Click here to download a copy of the flowchart.](#)

Do I need to complete a new form each time I access an eligible specialist allied health or specialist dental service?

Yes. One form is required for each trip.

Where can I get more information?

Please visit the [WA Country Health Service PATS webpage](#), contact the PATS Allied Health and Dental team on 1800 944 016, PATS.AHD@health.wa.gov.au or reach out to your [local PATS team](#).