



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):

- PATS is a subsidy scheme and does not cover all costs associated with your travel or accommodation.
- To receive PATS subsidies, you must be a permanent resident of country WA and eligible for Medicare.
- 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. Check your eligibility with your local PATS office before you travel.

What is covered?

- Most specialist medical services covered under Medicare are eligible under PATS. You or your referring practitioner 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 your eligibility 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: Subsidies are available as 1) a per kilometre subsidy for a private vehicle from your hometown to the town or city your specialist appointment is, or 2) the cost of a commercial economy-class fare to travel on the most economical form of transport. For those travelling between 70-100kms (one way) for cancer treatment or dialysis, a limited subsidy is provided. Check with your eligibility with your local PATS office before you travel.
- Accommodation: Subsidies are available for people living more than 100kms away who are required to stay overnight for medical reasons, distance or transport schedules.
- Escort: eligible for PATS-eligible patients who are: living with a disability, impairment or experiencing frailty; require a carer; receiving cancer treatment; under the age of 18 years; travelling for childbirth; clinical recommendation including for emotional or psychological support; journey navigation; or cultural or linguistic support.
- Assistance in Advance (travel and accommodation): To receive subsidies in advance, 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 referring practitioner or treating specialist.

What does the PATS Application/Claim Form include and how is it easy 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.

COMPLETING THE COMBINED PATS FORM:

Section A: Personal details (completed by the patient)

- Make sure all your personal details, including your Medicare number and signature, are provided where requested.
- If you need Assistance in Advance, make sure you lodge your application and provide proof of your appointment to your local PATS office as soon as possible (*before* you travel)

Section B: Referring practitioner recommendation (completed by the referring practitioner)

- The referring practitioner to make sure all required information is provided on your application (such as clinical details to support referral to a specialist who is not the closest).
- If an escort or specific transport (such as air travel) 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 specialist appointment attendance and claim for subsidy (completed by the patient and treating specialist)

- Information to be completed by your treating specialist can be completed and signed by the **Specialist or a clinic employee.**
- Your specialist may need to refer you on to different specialists or specialties and can do so via Section C. This will stop you having to return to your regular GP for subsequent applications. Added specialties are still subject to PATS eligibility criteria (eg the new referral must be to the nearest eligible specialist).
- If you make return journeys to eligible specialists or specialties, you are not required to fill in Section A again unless your details have changed. Applications are valid for 12 months and upon expiry a new application will need to be submitted for approval.
- Section C must be completed and submitted to your local PATS office, even if you have had your subsidy paid in advance.

PATS OFFICES

Goldfields Kalgoorlie (08) 9080 5681 Esperance (08) 9071 0801	Wheatbelt 1800 728 792 PATS Forms can be lodged at all hospitals within the Wheatbelt
Midwest Geraldton, Midwest & Murchison (08) 9956 2216 Gascoyne (08) 9941 0313 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 www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/PATS

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