Need help with transportation to and from cancer appointments and treatments?

At some point in your care, you may need assistance getting to and from your appointments. Cancer and its treatments can be very demanding with the number of medical appointments. Ask your cancer care team to explain to you the timing and appointment scheduling for your specific care and share with you a written plan. Knowing the schedule and where your treatment will be delivered ahead of time may help you plan in advance your transportation needs to and from your appointments.

For additional help ask if:
- Telehealth is an option for any appointments.
- there are any transportation services offered by the cancer treatment site.
- you may be eligible for a handicap placard.
- there are any free or reduced-cost parking vouchers for patients.

Resources for Additional Information:

- American Cancer Society, Road to Recovery
- CancerCare, Transportation
- Patient Advocate Foundation, Getting to Your Medical Appointments
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society®, Susan Lang Pay-it-forward Travel Assistance Program
- PAN Foundation, Transportation Grants
- The Pink Fund for Breast Cancer
- Needy Meds, Travel Expenses for Cancer
- Chicago Transit Authority
- Chicago Regional Transportation Authority
- City of Chicago Senior Transportation Programs
- Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

Transportation Resources

There are many to support transportation to and from medical treatments, appointments and tests.

- Some hospitals have specific programs / vans
- Ask to speak with a social worker who may have resources
- See resources listed below in Websites/National Organizations
- Cancer patients with Medicaid medical insurance may be eligible for non-emergency transportation to doctor appointments that address Medicaid-approved care. Rides in your area may be offered by taxi, car, van, or a form of public transportation. Call your Medicaid caseworker for more information and eligibility.
- Depending upon the patient’s age, government-provided financial aid for transportation may be available.
- Many non-profit organizations specialize in specific age or veteran-related assistance for example, The Catholic Charities, Senior Services 312-655-7700.
- Transportation assistance can be available based on the city, county or township in which a patient resides.
  - Larger towns or cities may offer transportation and services for disabled and/or older adults for whom public transportation is not manageable.
  - If you live in the Chicago-land area, ask for assistance with registering for PACE (suburban public transportation) or CTA if needed. American Cancer Society may provide PACE Vouchers and Ventra (CTA) cards.
  - Some private insurance policies will cover transportation costs through medical transportation companies.
  - Private pay options are available for those who can afford it in terms of paratransit, taxi, Uber, Lyft or public transportation.
  - If friends, family, community members offer their help, ask if they could drive you to and from an appointment.

Recursos en Español:

- American Cancer Society, Programas y recursos para ayudar con los gastos relacionados con el cancer
- CancerCare, Fuentes de Asistencia Financiera

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