

ASK US...

Q & A's with Alex & Jane

QUESTIONS FOR THE ALFRED HTC TEAM

Are you a country patient?

I live about 2 hours from Melbourne and when I attend the HTC it is quite an expensive venture. Am I able to recoup some costs from anywhere?

Any patient living more than 100 kms from the CBD of Melbourne can apply for reimbursement of the trip down and back to/from their home address to see a medical specialist not available in your home town/city.

You must be a permanent resident in the rural town/city you are traveling from.

In Victoria the scheme is called Victorian Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (VPTAS). You can obtain a form from the social worker(s) at the HTC when you attend the Alfred Hospital or from reception of the Patient & Family Services Department (Social Work) located behind the cafeteria area in the ground floor. Your social worker Jane and Alex can sign the form if you attend the HTC appointment and they or Susan at the HTC reception, will ensure Dr Tran's details are completed before you leave.

If you are attending other clinics (i.e. orthopaedics, liver clinic etc) during the visit, please ensure you have a separate VPTAS form that requires the signature of the treating doctor you see and ensure they complete their full details, especially their medical provider number.

Also if your appointments are spread over several consecutive days and you need to stay overnight, you can also recoup some of the hotel room cost (not the full amount).

People receiving VPTAS assistance pay the first \$100 each treatment year for their travel and accommodation, except for primary card holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card. After the initial payment

VPTAS covers all travel and accommodation costs for the remainder of the treatment year.

A treatment year starts from the date of the first appointment with a specialist.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

People who are eligible for travel support will receive:

- 21 cents per kilometre for travel if a private car is used
- full economy-class fare reimbursements for public transport
- air travel reimbursement - only if the journey exceeds 350 kilometres one way and a commercial flight is used
- taxi travel reimbursement - only to or from the nearest public transport when there are no other transport options.

Follow this link to the website so you understand your eligibility.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/rural-health/vptas-how-to-apply>

Similar schemes exist in other states and for those living close to the NSW/Victorian boarder it

is known as IPTAAS as we often have patients traveling to the Melbourne HTC as its more convenient than Sydney.

<http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/services/iptaas>



When I travel to the HTC, I need assistance so can I take my partner or someone from my family with me?

Yes an approved escort can travel with you. This needs to be signed off by your treating doctor. See section C of the claim form or in this link for more detail.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/rural-health/vptas-how-to-apply>

If the escort travels separately to you as the patient such as via ambulance or Flying Doctor Air Ambulance approval regarding the need of the escort is required through the following form.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/VP-TAS-family-support-form>

Please discuss with the Alfred treating doctor when you attend.

What about accommodation near the Alfred HTC if I or my family need somewhere to stay?

The social work department can provide you with a list of surrounding hotels from Prahran to down on St Kilda Road. Please note though, that room rates vary and can be quite expensive. Again VPTAS is on a reimbursement system, so you need to be able to pay up front then lodge your claim form for a contribution refund.

If you are admitted to the Alfred, and your family members want to stay in Melbourne to visit you, there is a low cost accommodation option only available to family members. If you are on a pension or benefit, it is located in East Melbourne close to public transport. This must be booked ahead in most cases and costs claimed back from VP-TAS. Please discuss with Jane or Alex for further details.

ACCOMMODATION

Applicants may be able to receive accommodation assistance up to a maximum of \$45.00 per night (\$49.50 including GST). This may be available to the applicant and their approved escort if:

- they stay in commercial accommodation - that is, any accommodation that is registered as a business and has an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- the specialist completes the VPTAS claim form stating the number of nights of accommodation required
- the specialist approves that partner or carer can accompany the applicant (they must be 18 years of age or older).

**Alex Coombs & Jane Portnoy
Social Workers, Haemophilia &
Other Inherited Bleeding Disorders
Alfred Health**

HFV Noticeboard

To post a message on our noticeboard, please email our HFV office at info@hfv.org.au or call 9555 7595

ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

HAEMOPHILIA TEACHERS SEMINAR

2019

**\$30
PER
TEACHER**

You are invited to attend the
16th Haemophilia Teachers Seminar presented by the
Haemophilia Treatment Centre Team at the RCH.
Supported by Haemophilia Foundation Victoria

**8.45AM - 12PM FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
VERNON COLLINS THEATRE,
LEVEL 1, WEST BUILDING (YELLOW LIFTS)
ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Bookings Essential through
TryBooking by 11th Feb
www.trybooking.com/427643

Speakers:
Dr Chris Barnes, Janine Furmedge (Haemophilia Nurse), Nicola Hamilton (Physiotherapist),
primary and secondary aged students with haemophilia

HFV BABY & TODDLER

GROUP

Establishing a baby and toddler group for families
with babies and young children with bleeding disorders

If you are keen to connect with other families with affected by bleeding disorders please email us your details and we can connect you directly.

We already have 2 families keen to connect with others so if you are interested please contact Julia Broadbent at HFV on 9555 7595 or email julia@hfv.org.au