



**British Columbia and Yukon Branch**

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## **Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program (LODERP)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is LODERP?**

LODERP is a program designed to reimburse potential living donors for eligible expenses incurred during the assessment and surgery phases of kidney or partial liver donation.

#### **Who is eligible for LODERP reimbursement?**

People donating or planning to donate a kidney or part of a liver to a **BC or Yukon resident** can seek reimbursement for eligible expenses. Reimbursement is available when the potential donor attends assessment tests at transplant centres in Vancouver, not for preliminary testing in their own community.

#### **What expenses can be reimbursed?**

Reimbursement can cover travel, accommodation, parking, and meals related to the transplant process. If individuals need time off work for surgery recovery, some income support is also available. Each expense category has specific criteria and maximum limits. See below

If you have something not listed below, please reach out to the LODERP program to discuss [loderp.bcy@kidney.ca](mailto:loderp.bcy@kidney.ca) or call 604-558-6879

#### **What is the expense category limits and maximums?**

##### **Travel:**

Generally, up to \$1,500 per transplant is allowed. With prior approval, it can be extended for extraordinary travel (ex: international donors/ paired exchange) Please contact program to discuss. Receipts will be required for all travel expenses. Photocopies/faxed receipts are acceptable. Mileage will be calculated using Google Maps.

**Flying/ Ferry:** Donor is to travel economy. Book option which allows changes or cancellations for a fee. One bag fee allowed (max \$50), Pre- seat selection not covered (sign in at 24 hrs before flight to select). We cannot reimburse flights purchased by points.

Those travelling from the island(s), we do not cover flights so please make sure you have a TAP form for the ferry, this can be given by the donor coordinator at your transplant hospital. Please note that we do not cover the km travelled while on the ferry.

**Transportation:** Taxi, ride sharing companies, sky train and shuttle service to and from the airport to accommodation. In city travel not covered. Please note that car rentals are not covered.

**Mileage:** Reimbursed at \$0.50 per driven kilometre for distances over **60 km** to the hotel or transplant centre. Maximum claimable distance is 1500 km for assessment/ surgery combined. Extraordinary

long-distance travel will be compensated at the cost of an economy flight if lower. For those travelling via ferry, please note we do not cover the km travelled while on the ferry.

### **Parking:**

Up to 10 days of parking reimbursed at a maximum of \$28.00/day during the assessment, surgery phases combined. Receipts required, and photocopies are acceptable.

### **Accommodations:**

Receipts required, and photocopies are acceptable.

Reimbursement for accommodation expenses, not exceeding:

**\$380/night (May- Oct)**

**\$175/night (Nov-Apr)**

Assessment: number of nights covered is dependent on length of assessment testing (1- 2 days) and travel distance. Please reach out to the LODERP program to discuss.

Surgery: number of nights covered is dependent on when you are needed for final check in/ surgery date and travel distance. During hospitalization a companion will be covered. Typical coverage is between 5-10 days max. Please reach out to the LODERP program to discuss.

Paired Exchange Program participants/ International donors can claim up to 14 nights with prior approval.

Donors who reside in lower mainland may stay in a hotel the night before surgery. Not during assessment.

**Note:** *Century Plaza Hotel* (604-687-0575) at 1015 Burrard St and  
*Sandman Suites on Davie* at 1160 Davie Street (604-681-7263)

Offer a special rate for donors. When you call directly to make a reservation mention "LODERP," and if there is space, they will provide you that rate.

### **Meals:**

Meal allowance for donors traveling from outside the Lower Mainland only. No receipts required for the meal allowance; flat rate given.

Assessment: \$30 per day (max 3 days per donor) *\*confirmation of dates given to us by hospital*

Surgery: \$225 flat rate (donor & companion if applicable)

### **Companion Travel:**

- Donors can bring a companion for the surgery phase only.
- Companion airfare is reimbursed at the same rate as the donor (see above).
- Accommodation is covered when the donor is in hospital (same rate as above). It is expected that donor and companion will share accommodation.
- Meal allowance will be given, flat rate (see above)
- Claims go through the donor's form.
- Donating to a spouse and have no local support for post-surgery recovery, please call to discuss

These same parameters apply to a companion with a living donor who needs to travel outside of BC through the Paired Exchange Program.

## **Other:**

LODERP can potentially cover additional expenses like childcare (for stay-at-home parent/donors proceeding to surgery, at minimum wage) and pet care under specific circumstances, if proceeding to surgery. Please contact us to discuss.

Any expenses beyond travel, accommodations, meals, parking, loss of income, or exceeding category limits must be discussed and pre-approved by the LODERP Program Director at The Kidney Foundation, BC & Yukon. Retroactive payments for unapproved expenses will not be provided.

## **Loss of Income Support for Canadian donors:**

This support is available only after applying for Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefits or short-term disability through your employer. You and your employer must fill out the [Income and Benefits Verification Form](#) prior to surgery. If eligible, LODERP covers the waiting period only. For those not eligible for EI sickness benefit, up to eight weeks support is provided post-surgery, at the full weekly salary or \$700/week (whichever is lower).

### **What if I am self-employed?**

Self-employed donors require the last two years' income verification through tax returns. Self-employed individuals should provide income tax information before the surgery date.

Any Loss of income claims will need to provide their SIN, to have a T4A form sent for tax purposes. DO NOT include your SIN on your claim form or by email. Please contact us directly 604-558-6879

No income support for out-of-country donors or those unable to provide income verification.

## **When should I apply for LODERP?**

- Prior to your In person assessment appointment, Please fill out the [Donor Information Form](#) , this allows us to start a file, go through your trip and you can ask any questions
- After your assessment or surgery is complete. Fill out the [Claim form](#) and send in along with receipts and include your banking info or a VOID cheque info via email or fax

## **Where do I get a claim form?**

[LODERP Claim Form](#)

## **Where do I submit my LODERP claim form?**

Please email the completed claim form and receipts to:

[loderp.bcy@kidney.ca](mailto:loderp.bcy@kidney.ca) or by fax to 604-736-9703 or 1-800-667-8871

## **What if I have more questions?**

Please email [loderp.bcy@kidney.ca](mailto:loderp.bcy@kidney.ca) or call program director at 604-558-6879