



Travel Reimbursement Program

Effective June 27, 2022 Blue Shield of California group plan members living in states with restricted access to pregnancy termination services will be eligible for travel reimbursement for the purpose of obtaining these services in states where they remain legally available.

The Travel Reimbursement Program rules and parameters are set for all Blue Shield group plan sponsors participating in the program. Groups may opt-out of the program [here](#).

Program Rules / Eligibility

- Members must reside in a state where terminating a pregnancy is banned or restricted. As of June 24, 2022, this includes: Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming.
- Members must be enrolled in a Blue Shield of California commercial group plan with eligible pregnancy termination coverage services (see "Pregnancy Termination Coverage" below).
- Covered services must be provided from a licensed practitioner, in a state other than the members' state of residence where the services can be lawfully provided, through the member's BlueCard benefit, or an out-of-network provider if the member's plan covers out-of-network benefits.
- Travel reimbursement is provided for both surgical and medical (medication) pregnancy termination services.
- Travel Reimbursement Program applies to pre- and post-care for surgical and medical pregnancy termination services.
- Members must fill out the Travel Reimbursement Program claims form, including attestation, in addition to submitting receipts and supporting documentation of expenses.
- A claim on file for covered pregnancy termination services, or documentation showing proof that services were rendered, are required to process a Travel Reimbursement Program claim.
- Prior authorization is not required.
- Reimbursement is only available where permitted under applicable law.
- Travel reimbursement is limited to pregnancy termination services and **does not extend** to travel to obtain fertility and/or other reproductive-type services. Members should refer to their Evidence of Coverage for pregnancy termination benefits coverage.
- Blue Shield of California will provide reimbursement for sales taxes assessed on eligible expenses but will not be responsible for any taxes that may be imposed as a result of a member's receipt of reimbursements through this program.
- Travel reimbursement must be for costs incurred and paid by the member and not also reimbursed or paid by another party (e.g. employer, non-profits, etc.). Amounts reimbursed by another source must be refunded to Blue Shield.
- Members enrolled in Health Savings Account (HSA) eligible High Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs) may need to satisfy deductible requirements before receiving reimbursements through this program if they wish to maintain their eligibility for HSA contributions.



Reimbursable Expenses

- There are no member cost shares associated with this program nor do members need to satisfy their deductibles.
- Travel reimbursement cannot exceed \$2,000 per pregnancy termination event; costs accrued by the member above the \$2,000 threshold are the member's responsibility.
- Expenses must be reasonable and necessary. Reimbursable expenses may include:
 - **Transportation** to and from the facility or location of services including airfare, mileage, taxis (including Uber, Lyft, etc.) and shuttles.
 - **Hotel accommodations** if an overnight stay is required to obtain pregnancy termination services.
 - Not to exceed **\$250 per day**. Limited to one double-occupancy room. All other hotel expenses are excluded.
 - **Meals**
 - Not to exceed **\$100 per day**
 - **Companion expenses, when:**
 - The presence of a companion is necessary to receive pregnancy termination services (including for physical and/or emotional support), or;
 - The companion is a dependent child (*example*: member needs to travel with their child because they have no childcare; the child does not need to be enrolled in the member's plan).
 - **Exclusions**
 - Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, phone charges, television, recreation, and personal expenses
 - Premium economy, business, or first-class airfare
 - Limousine and car services
 - Expenses reimbursed by another source (e.g. employer or non-profit)
 - Reimbursement is not available if the reimbursements themselves or the underlying pregnancy termination services would be unlawful under applicable law.

Pregnancy termination coverage: Under current California state law, surgical and medical (prescription drug) pregnancy termination services are a covered benefit.

Effective January 1, 2023, these services are to be covered at \$0 when rendered by an in-network or out-of-network (where plan has out-of-network coverage) provider. If a member has a high-deductible health plan, \$0 coverage is applicable once deductibles are satisfied (CA SB 245).

Members should refer to their Evidence of Coverage plan document for pregnancy termination benefit coverage.