

Public Consultation regarding the Isle of Wight Council's funding of the Cross Solent Travel Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Cross Solent Travel Scheme?

It is a discretionary non-means tested scheme which provides financial support for ferry travel costs to mainland appointments for patients travelling to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis. The scheme is owned and administered by the Isle of Wight NHS Trust but is funded by the Isle of Wight Council.

2. Who can apply for support from this scheme?

Patients travelling to Portsmouth or Southampton hospitals for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis treatment or the planning of such treatments.

3. What restrictions apply to this scheme?

- Patients must not be in receipt of benefits which would entitle them to assistance from the Healthcare Statutory Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS) ★ see more information below
- Patients must travel as foot passengers, i.e. public transport, taxi or car ferry fares cannot be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement is only available where the relevant discount has been claimed from the travel provider.
- Patients must complete a valid claim form and produce receipts for travel payments
- Under these arrangements only the following groups of patients are eligible for assistance:
 - a) Patients who are receiving radiotherapy treatment or are planning such a treatment
 - b) Patients who are receiving chemotherapy treatment or are planning such a treatment
 - c) Patients who are receiving renal dialysis treatment or are planning such a treatment
- We will provide reimbursement for carers or escorts where the patient eligible for assistance is:
 - d) Deemed by a medical professional as unable to travel alone (written evidence required) or
 - e) Is under 18 years of age or 65 years of age or older at the time of travel

4. Can patients travelling for conditions other than chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis apply for support from the scheme?

No, the scheme is only available for patients travelling for these specific treatments.

5. Is support under this scheme means tested?

Support under this discretionary scheme is not means tested. The scheme is available to any patient who would not qualify for support under the statutory Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS).

6. ★ What is the statutory Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS)?

This is a different scheme to the one that is currently funded by the IW Council.

The NHS have a duty to reimburse travel costs to people who have a low income or are in receipt of certain income related benefits. This scheme can refund the cost of travelling to hospital or other NHS premises for any treatment or tests arranged by a doctor or dentist. The scheme is not limited to certain treatments or conditions, however to qualify for the scheme you must meet the eligibility criteria of the NHS Low Income Scheme or be in receipt of specific income related benefits.

To find out more about the HTCS please [click here](#)

7. What discounts are offered by the Isle of Wight Ferry operators to support patients travelling for health appointments?

Each of the Isle of Wight ferry operators offers their own discount scheme to support patients attending NHS funded hospital appointments. To find out what each ferry operator offers and how to take advantage of their scheme please refer to the ferry provider's own websites:

www.redfunnel.co.uk/en/isle-of-wight-ferry/fares/ferry-passenger-fares-to-southampton/healthcare-travel-scheme/

www.wightlink.co.uk/iow/go/tickets-prices/healthcare

www.hovertravel.co.uk/nhs-healthcare-scheme