



British Columbia and Yukon Branch

200 – 4940 Canada Way

Burnaby, BC V5G 4K6

Ph: 604 736 9775 | 1 800 567 8112

Fax: 604 736 9703 | 1 800 667 8871

kidney.ca

LIVING ORGAN DONOR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (LODERP) Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is LODERP?**

LODERP stands for Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program and is designed to reimburse donors and potential living organ (kidney or liver) donors for their eligible expenses related to the assessment and surgery phases of the organ donation process.

- **Who can apply for LODERP reimbursement?**

Anyone who donates or intends to donate a kidney or portion of a liver to a resident of BC or The Yukon may apply for reimbursement of their eligible expenses. The (potential) donor may be from BC, from another province or from another country.

LODERP reimbursement becomes available when a potential donor is scheduled to attend assessment tests at one of the transplant centres in Vancouver; no reimbursement is available for preliminary testing within one's own community.

- **What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?**

Reimbursement may cover travel between home and the transplant centre, accommodations, parking and meals. For individuals who must be off work during recovery, modest loss of income support is available. Each expense category has specific criteria and maximum limits.

- **What are the expense category limits and maximums?**

Travel: Generally, up to a maximum of \$1,500 per transplant is allowed. This maximum could be extended, with prior approval from the LODERP administrators, to up to \$2,000 if extraordinary flights are necessary. It is expected that donors will travel in the most economical manner possible. Travel may include mileage or economy airfare for assessment and/or surgery. Travel may also include taxi and/or shuttle service between the airport and a Vancouver hotel and return. Local travel while in Vancouver will not be reimbursed. In the case of Paired Exchange, travel to and from the other province's airport to the accommodation will be covered as well as travel to and from the transplant hospital in that city.

Mileage over 60 km between home and the transplant centre will be reimbursed at a rate of \$0.40 per kilometer. The maximum number of kilometers one may claim is 1,500 for both assessment and surgery travel combined. If one chooses to drive an extraordinary distance to Vancouver, the travel will be compensated at what the cost of an economy flight would be if this is a lesser amount

than mileage. Receipts will be required for all travel expenses. Photocopies/faxed receipts are acceptable. Mileage will be calculated using Google Maps. We cannot reimburse the value of travel points used to purchase flights. Those traveling from Vancouver Island must secure a TAP form from their transplant social worker to ride the ferry for free. Ferry costs are not covered by this LODERP program.

Companion Travel: It is acceptable for living donors to bring a companion with them to Vancouver for the surgery phase of the donation process. Under these circumstances, airfare, at the same rate as the donor, will be reimbursed as will accommodation for the companion for the days when the donor is in the hospital for surgery. It is expected that the companion will share accommodation with the donor. The companion will also be privy to their own \$175 compensation for meals while in Vancouver with the donor. All claims for companion reimbursement will go through the donor's claim form. These same parameters apply to a companion with a living donor who needs to travel outside of BC through the Paired Exchange Program.

Accommodations: Hotel accommodations will be reimbursed at the actual amount paid, not to exceed \$150/night including taxes if accommodations are needed between November and April (off-season). For accommodations in high season (May through October) reimbursement can be up to \$175 per night. If any night's accommodation is used during the assessment phase, the number of nights available for reimbursement at the time of surgery is reduced by that number. A maximum of 2 nights for each assessment visit may be claimed during the assessment phase. For the surgery phase, 7 nights may be claimed and up to 10 nights, with pre-approval, when surgery requires extended travel. Those traveling to other provinces through the Paired Exchange Program may claim up to 14 nights with prior approval. Receipts will be required. Photocopies/faxed receipts are acceptable. We cannot reimburse for the value of accommodation points used to purchase hotel rooms. Donors who reside in the Lower Mainland may stay in a hotel near their transplant hospital the night before surgery. Otherwise, no travel or accommodation is covered for local donors.

Meals: A meal allowance of \$175 is available if a donor proceeds to the surgery phase and must travel from outside of the Lower Mainland for surgery. There is no meal allowance during the assessment phase and no meal allowance available for local donors who return home directly following hospital discharge. No receipts are required for the meal allowance.

Parking: A total of 10 days parking at a maximum of \$21/day is available during the assessment and surgery phases. Receipts will be required. Photocopies/faxed receipts are acceptable.

Loss of Income Support (for Canadian donors only): This support is only available after the donor applies for Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefits and/or short-term (ST) disability if provided through his/her employer. If the donor is eligible for EI or ST disability coverage, LODERP will provide funds for the waiting period. For donors who are ineligible for EI coverage, LODERP can provide up to eight weeks support to cover the number of weeks the donor may be off work post-surgery. Loss of income support will be offered at the donor's full weekly salary or \$700/week whichever is lower. For employed donors, an income verification form must be completed by their employer. For donors who are self-employed, verification of the last two years income will be required through tax returns. No loss of income support is available for out of country donors or those who are not able to provide income verification.

Other: The program has the ability to cover some other expenses, such as childcare (for stay-at-home parent/donor who proceeds to surgery, covered at minimum wage) and pet care under certain circumstances. Any expenses that are not travel, accommodations, meals, parking, loss of income or that are in excess of category limits must be discussed with the LODERP Program Director at The Kidney Foundation and pre-approved. No retroactive payments will be made for unapproved expenses.

- **I need to come to Vancouver, and I don't know where to stay, can you suggest hotels near Vancouver General and St Paul's Hospitals?**

Both of Vancouver's transplant hospitals produce a listing of places to stay nearby. The lists can be viewed by clicking on the following links:

- [Accommodation near Vancouver General Hospital \(VGH\)](#)
- [Accommodation near Saint Paul's Hospital \(SPH\)](#)

NOTE: The Sandman Suites at 1160 Davie Street is one block behind St. Paul's Hospital. If you book directly through their local number (604) 681-7263 and say you want the "LODERP" rate, if there is available space, they will book you into a suite for \$150/\$175 per night including all taxes.

- **How and when do I apply for LODERP reimbursement?**

If you believe you will be making a LODERP claim, please immediately complete and submit the Donor Information Form, which can be found on the [LODERP](#) page.

If you purchase airfare, you may apply for reimbursement once you have used the outgoing flight. You will need to complete and submit the Claim Form available on the [LODERP](#) page.

If you proceed to surgery and plan to claim for loss of income, you and your employer should complete the Income Verification Form (available on the [LODERP](#) page) and submit it to the LODERP program before the surgery date by email at heather.johnson@kidney.ca or by fax at (604) 736-9703 or 1-800-667-8871. If you are self-employed please provide income tax information before your surgery date.

Contact

For more details about the LODERP program, contact Heather Johnson, Director of Programs, BC & Yukon Branch, Kidney Foundation at heather.johnson@kidney.ca or 604-558-6879.