

New Mexico Health Connections (NMHC) works with various Centers of Excellence (COE) for transplant services. Our goal is to work within our designated COE networks to find a transplant facility that matches the members' and clinicians' needs based on individual factors and circumstances. Our Case Management team will help the member coordinate transplant services following prior authorization approval and selection of the transplant facility. **NMHC requires prior authorization for both the transplant evaluation and the transplant.**

The recipient of an organ transplant must be an NMHC member at the time of service. Benefits are not available when the member is a donor. "Recipient" is defined to include a member receiving approved transplant-related services during any of the following: evaluation, candidacy, transplant event, or post-transplant care.

Transplant services include medical, surgical, and hospital services for the recipient. NMHC also covers organ procurement needed for human-to-human organ or tissue transplant. The types of transplants covered include but are not limited to kidney, kidney/pancreas, cornea, bone marrow/stem cell, heart, heart/lung, liver, and pancreas.

Prior authorization is based on an evaluation conducted by an NMHC-approved transplant facility and on relevant evidence-based medical guidelines. A member may seek prior authorization from NMHC for dual listing (registering at two or more transplant centers). The second listing must be within a separate or different Organ Procurement Organization that is approved by NMHC as well. While dual listing is approved, payment will be made to only one facility for the actual transplant event.

NMHC covers costs directly related to the procurement of an organ from a cadaver or from a live donor. NMHC also covers surgery needed for organ removal, organ transit/transportation, hospitalization, and surgery for a live donor. Compatibility testing prior to procurement is covered if NMHC determines it to be medically necessary.

Member travel expenses incurred in connection with a pre-approved transplant are covered up to \$10,000 per lifetime. Benefits for transportation, lodging, and food are available to members only if they are recipients of preauthorized organ/tissue transplants from NMHC-approved providers. Transplant travel requires prior authorization from NMHC. Covered travel expenses for a member receiving a transplant include charges for:

- transportation to and from the transplant site, including charges for a rental car used during a period of care at the transplant facility;
- lodging while at, or traveling to and from, the transplant site; and
- food while at, or traveling to and from, the transplant site.

NMHC will also cover travel expenses for one companion to accompany the patient as described above. Members who are minors are allowed travel benefits for themselves, one or both parents, or a parent and a designated companion. A companion may be a spouse, domestic partner, family member, legal guardian, or any person not related to the member but actively involved in the member's care. The following specific travel expenses are **excluded** from coverage:

- travel costs for transplant evaluation
- travel costs incurred due to travel within 60 miles of the member's home
- laundry bills
- telephone bills
- alcohol or tobacco products
- charges for transportation that exceed coach rates

NMHC covers inpatient immunosuppressive drugs for organ transplants. NMHC may cover outpatient immunosuppressive prescription drugs, but may require prior authorization. Please refer to the NMHC Prescription Drug Formulary at [mynmhc.org/Formulary.aspx](http://mynmhc.org/Formulary.aspx) for information about drugs requiring prior authorization.

Our Care Management and Provider Services teams can answer any questions during the planning stages of a transplant. Specific questions about our COE networks can be directed to our Case Management department at 1-844-691-9984.