

***Program for
Reimbursing
Expenses of
Living
Organ
Donors
(PRELOD)***

PROGRAM FOR REIMBURSING EXPENSES OF LIVING ORGAN DONORS

Living donation occurs when a living person donates an organ or part of an organ for transplant to another person in need of a life-saving organ. There are many advantages to living donation, including a potentially better functioning organ after transplantation and longer graft survival. Living donation is an act of kindness that has the potential to reduce wait times for patients in need of a kidney or liver transplant. Through the generosity of living organ donors, many lives have been, and can be saved through living organ transplantation.

Living organ donors often report a sense of satisfaction through their act of donation to save or improve someone's life. However, this act is not without its financial impact. Living organ donation involves multiple visits to a transplant hospital for a variety of tests and surgery that results in expenses being incurred by the living donor, including a potential loss of income after surgery. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care established a fund to help reduce the financial stress incurred by living organ donation. The Program for Reimbursing Expenses of Living Organ Donors (PRELOD) is administered by Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN). PRELOD reimburses living organ donors for certain qualified out-of-pocket expenses and loss of income after surgery incurred through the living donation process. PRELOD aims to help reduce financial burdens that may prevent someone from deciding to become a living organ donor.

3. You may apply to PRELOD as soon as a transplant hospital accepts you to undergo further testing for the purposes of living donation. Applications must be received no later than 12 months after your last assessment visit or date of surgery. **All applications must include the required supporting documentation, including original receipts.**

Northern Ontario Applicants

Applicants residing in Northern Ontario (including Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Timiskaming or Thunder Bay) should apply to the Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) prior to submitting an application to PRELOD.

Further Information

To learn more about PRELOD visit the
Trillium Gift of Life Network website
at www.giftoflife.on.ca.

If you have any further questions or comments,
please contact the PRELOD Administrator at:
PRELOD@giftoflife.on.ca or 1-888-9-PRELOD / 416-619-2342.

Out-of-pocket expenses and the loss of income experienced due to follow-up visits after surgery are not eligible for reimbursement.

Only expenses that meet specified eligibility criteria will be considered. PRELOD is a last-resort program which aims to reduce the financial burden associated with the living donation process. *Expenses such as prescriptions, entertainment, telephone and expenses incurred by primary caregivers and visitors/family are not reimbursed through PRELOD at this time.*

Application Process

1. To open a file with TGLN, obtain a PRELOD application package from your transplant hospital, the Kidney Foundation of Ontario or the TGLN website (www.giftoflife.on.ca). Review the forms thoroughly and refer to the *Application Checklist* included in the application package to ensure that your application is completed correctly and all supporting documentation is submitted. The application package includes:
 - PRELOD Application Form (Section A, B & C)
 - Income & Benefit Verification Form – ***If applying for the loss of income after surgery subsidy***
 - Loss of Income Certificate – ***If applying for the loss of income after surgery subsidy***
 - Support to Travel Letter – ***For donors travelling from outside of Ontario***
 - Consent to Sharing of Personal Information with Northern Health Travel Grant for the Purposes of Determining Reimbursement Eligibility – ***For Northern Ontario Applicants only***
2. If you are eligible to apply to PRELOD, the transplant hospital assessing you for donation will confirm the dates of your medical appointments for the purposes of living donation assessment and/or surgery on the *Appointment Verification Form*. All claims must correspond with the dates of these visits. The *Appointment Verification Form* will be used to support the information on your application. The transplant hospital will provide you with the completed *Appointment Verification Form* at discharge from hospital, or after your last assessment visit if you do not proceed to surgery. The form must be included with your application forms to ensure that your application is properly processed.

How PRELOD Works

Eligibility to Apply

Once you have made the decision to donate a living organ to an Ontario resident, a transplant hospital will assess you to determine your medical suitability. The transplant hospital will determine if you are suitable for further assessment including surgery, after conducting a thorough health history and blood typing. If you are accepted for further testing to become a living organ donor and you have incurred specified eligible costs, you are eligible to apply to PRELOD.

PRELOD is available to anyone in Ontario, out-of-province or out-of-country who donates or intends to donate an organ or part of an organ to an *Ontario resident*. The living organ recipient must have an Ontario health card to show proof he/she is covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP).

Out-of-Pocket Expenses and Loss of Income

You may apply for reimbursement of reasonable, out-of-pocket expenses, and loss of income after surgery according to eligibility criteria (See next page). Qualified out-of-pocket expenses include certain travel, parking/transit, accommodations, meals and meal allowance. These expenses are incurred when you are visiting a transplant hospital for the purpose of assessment and/or surgery. A loss of income subsidy may be available after surgery, only after all other sources of income have been utilized and exhausted (eg. paid leave of absence, sick or vacation time, Employment Insurance benefits, etc). In certain cases, the loss of income subsidy may cover the 2-week waiting period for Employment Insurance benefits. ***Original receipts and proof of income are required to support all claims.***

Claim

Eligibility

Travel

Up to \$1,500 for travel if:

- i) Donor lives **60 km or more one-way** from the transplant hospital, land travel (mileage) at \$0.41 per kilometre.
- ii) Donor lives **100 km or more one-way** from transplant hospital, economy air or train. In addition, round trip taxi fare from the airport to hospital/hotel may be reimbursed.

Claims made for follow-up assessments after surgery are not eligible for reimbursement.

Parking/Transit

Up to \$140 at a maximum of \$20 per day.

Reimbursement is available if parking is required while the donor is in hospital during recovery. Does not apply to visitor parking/transit, or to post-surgery visits.

Accommodation

Up to \$625 at a maximum of \$125 per night may be claimed if living donor lives 100 km or more from the transplant hospital.

Reimbursement for the evening prior to an assessment visit and surgery, and the immediate post-surgery discharge from the hospital and prior to return home. Does not apply to visitor accommodations or to post-surgery visits.

Meals

Up to \$200 at a maximum of \$40 per day may be claimed if living donor lives 100 km or more from the transplant hospital.

Reimbursement available for the immediate post-surgery discharge from the hospital and prior to return home. Does not apply to the time while in the hospital, visitor meals, or to post-surgery visits.

Meal Allowance

Up to \$150 at a maximum of \$30 per day, in lieu of accommodations and meals, if living donor lives 100 km or more from the transplant hospital. This may be a situation where a living donor stays with friends or family.

Reimbursement for the evening prior to an assessment visit and surgery, and the immediate post-surgery discharge from the hospital and prior to return home. Does not apply to post-surgery visits.

Loss of Income Subsidy After Surgery

Up to \$3,200 at a maximum of \$400 per week or 55% of net earnings, whichever is less, up to 8 weeks post-surgery or until donor returns to work, whichever occurs first. The maximum \$400 per week is reduced by other sources of income (eg. Employment Insurance benefits, Sick Time, Vacation Time, Disability Insurance, etc.).

The loss of income after surgery subsidy is only available to residents of Ontario and other Canadian provinces. The subsidy is only available for loss of income during recovery post surgery; it does not apply to pre-surgery visits or post-surgery visits.

Other

*On an **exceptional basis only** for childcare and in lieu of loss of income. This category is for a living organ donor who is a non-working parent. Reimbursement will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Contact TGLN for details.*