



Trillium
Gift of Life
Network

PRELOD

Program for Reimbursing Expenses of Living Organ Donors

Program Information & Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated: **April 2023**



Ontario Health

Trillium Gift of Life Network

About the Program

PRELOD provides reimbursement to living organ donors and potential living organ donors for eligible out-of-pocket expenses and lost income during the assessment and surgery periods of the organ donation process.

Who can apply for PRELOD?

Anyone who donates or intends to donate an organ or part of an organ to an Ontario resident covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) may apply for PRELOD. Both kidney donors and liver donors are eligible to apply.

Do you have to donate an organ to be eligible for PRELOD?

No. A person who intends to donate an organ or part of an organ for transplant but is considered ineligible for surgery after being assessed at a transplant hospital is eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred during the assessment process.

When did the PRELOD criteria outlined in this brochure go into effect?

April 1, 2023.

When is the deadline to apply?

Applications must be received no later than 12 months after your last assessment or follow up visit to be considered eligible for reimbursement.

What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

- Travel (mileage, bus, train, public transit, taxi, shuttle, rideshare services and parking).
- Accommodations
- Meals
- Lost income during recovery
- OPTIFAST® (weight loss aide for liver donors) reimbursement is available for living liver donors.

Please refer to the table for eligibility criteria and reimbursement limits.

What visits are eligible for reimbursement?

Eligible visits include appointments to a living donation program at an Ontario hospital for living donor testing, a living donor procedure, or follow-up visits, up to 12 months after the procedure. The date and purpose of each eligible assessment visits will be verified with the transplant program.

Are there preferential hotel rates available?

Please speak with your living donation program to learn of any preferential hotel rates that may be available.

If I am staying with family or friends and meals are provided am I eligible for meal reimbursement?

Yes, you are eligible to receive the meal allowance to offset the expense incurred by your family or friends.

When can I expect to receive reimbursement from PRELOD?

You should receive reimbursement 3-4 weeks after all required documentation has been received by Trillium Gift of Life Network. You may submit claims on an ongoing basis and receive reimbursement throughout the living donation process. Or, you may submit all claims at the end of the living donation process and reimbursement will be distributed as one payment.

Are my companions' expenses eligible for reimbursement from PRELOD?

All donors who proceed to surgery will be eligible for companion reimbursement for travel, accommodation and meals, at the same rate as the living donor. Companions typically travel with the donor, therefore, are ineligible for expenses which are being claimed by the donor. Companions travelling from a different location as the applicant should contact the PRELOD coordinator in advance to determine eligibility.

Companion expenses will only be reimbursed during the surgery and recovery period, up to the donor's return home after surgery.

I live in Northern Ontario. Can I apply for a Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) and PRELOD?

The Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) provides reimbursement for some travel related expenses to eligible Northern Ontario residents undergoing specialized medical services. Applicants living in Northern Ontario (including the districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Timiskaming and Thunder Bay) must apply to the NHTG before submitting an application to PRELOD. You must submit proof of payment or proof of denied claims from NHTG with your PRELOD application. For more information, please visit the NHTG website:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ohip/northern.aspx>

Do I have to choose the most economical form of transport?

Applicants should wherever possible choose the most economical and practical form of transport. TGLN will only reimburse reasonable travel expenses within the stipulated criteria as outlined in the table and application form.

Am I able to claim medical expenses through PRELOD?

Medical expenses should be covered by OHIP, however where this is not the case, we will review on a case by case basis.

I'm an Ontario resident and donated a living organ to a recipient in another province in Canada. Am I eligible for PRELOD?

Ontario residents who donate an organ to a recipient from another province are not eligible for PRELOD. Please contact the living donation program where you donated your organ to learn about living donor reimbursement programs available across Canada.

If you intended to donate an organ to an Ontario resident but through Paired Exchange you donated an organ to a resident outside of Ontario, contact the PRELOD Coordinator to determine your eligibility, 1-888-977-3563 or PRELOD@ontariohealth.ca.

What expenses are ineligible while I am in hospital for my surgery and recovery period?

Meals, accommodations and/or daily hospital parking will not be considered for reimbursement when an applicant is in the hospital for surgery and the recovery period.

How will my expenses be reimbursed?

Canadian residents will be reimbursed via electronic transfer payment. Applicants from outside of Canada will be reimbursed by cheque.

Am I able to claim Prescription expenses through PRELOD?

Applicants are expected to utilize all other available forms of coverage before applying to PRELOD for these expenses.

Am I eligible for PRELOD if I am part of the Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Program?

Donors who are participating in the Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Program are eligible for PRELOD if at least one Ontario recipient benefits from transplantation.

What if I can't afford to pay out of pocket for the cost of flights and/or accommodation?

Subject to eligibility, TGLN can book flights and accommodation on your behalf. If you are interested in this service please contact the PRELOD coordinator.

What if I need help booking flights or accommodation?

Subject to eligibility, TGLN can book flights and accommodation on your behalf. If you are interested in this service please contact the PRELOD coordinator.

I donated to an Ontario resident but live outside of Canada. Can I receive reimbursement in my home country's currency?

We can only reimburse applicants in Canadian or US dollars. Your preference can be indicated on the *PRELOD Application Form*.

PRELOD expense categories and reimbursement limits criteria, effective April 1, 2023:

Expense Category		Donor	Companion	Reimbursement Limits	Details
Travel	Mileage	✓		Combined maximum of \$2,000 for all transportation categories, for donors and an additional \$2,000 for companions.	\$0.41/km
	Parking	✓			
	Bus, Train, Public Transit, Taxi, Shuttle, and Rideshare	✓	✓	Expenses in excess of \$2,000 from out-of-province and out-of-country applicants will be considered on a case by case basis. Receipts and appropriate documentation are required	Includes round trip economy travel for assessment visits, surgery, and post-surgical follow-up visits.
	Economy Air	✓	✓		Air travel is eligible only when the applicant lives more than 100km from the transplant program.
Accommodations Includes Hotels, Motels and Short-Term Accommodation Rentals		✓	✓	Up to \$2,500 each at a maximum of \$250/night for donors and companions Expenses in excess of these limits will be considered during peak season and for out-of-province and out-of-country applicants required to stay longer than the eligible number of nights. Receipts and appropriate documentation are required	Applicants must live more than 100km from the transplant program. Donors may claim up to 2 nights for each assessment visit, up to 5 nights after discharge from the hospital after surgery, and up to 2 nights for each post-surgery follow-up visit up to 1 year after surgery. Companions of donors who live more than 100km from the transplant program are eligible to claim accommodation expenses on the night before the surgery, during the hospital stay, and up to 5 days after donor discharge from hospital. Those travelling from a different location as the applicant should contact the PRELOD coordinator in advance to determine eligibility.

Meals & Meal Allowance		✓	✓	Up to \$210 each at a maximum of \$30/day for donors and companions Receipts are <u>not</u> required	Includes meal expenses incurred attending an eligible visit. Eligible visits for donors include hospital assessments, donation surgery and post-surgery follow-up at the hospital up to one year after surgery. Companions may claim for meals on the day before the surgery, during the hospital stay, and up to 5 days after donor discharge from hospital.
Loss of Income Subsidy (Canadian residents only)		✓		Benchmarked to Employment Insurance (EI) benefit rates, up to 8-week post-surgery or until donor returns to work, whichever occurs first. Income and Benefit Verification, and Loss of Income Certificate are required	Available to working and self-employed Canadian residents to compensate for lost income during the recovery period after surgery in lieu of other benefits paid (e.g. employment Insurance, short-term disability). Note this is not a top up program. A childcare subsidy may be available in lieu of loss of income for non-working parents. Please contact the PRELOD coordinator for additional information.
OPTIFAST®		✓		Up to a maximum of \$700 Receipts are required	Available for living liver donors who are required to take OPTIFAST®, as verified by their transplant program.
Other	Medical Expenses	✓		Up to a maximum of \$500 Receipts are required	Other expenses will be considered on a case by case basis. Other available forms of coverage should be utilized before applying.
	Prescription Expenses				
	Non-Medical Expenses				

Any expenses incurred before April 1, 2023, will be reimbursed at the old rates, as outlined in the “Pre April 1, 2023 PRELOD Expenses Application Form” available on the TGLN website.

Expenses incurred on or after April 1, 2023 will be reimbursed at the rates outlined in this brochure. Any expenses, such as accommodation stays which overlap the two periods, will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Applicants can use either form. The TGLN coordinator will determine which criteria should be applied.

CONTACT US:

PRELOD@ontariohealth.ca or 1-888-977-3563

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Visit the Trillium Gift of Life Network website at <https://www.giftoflife.on.ca>