

	Addictive and Mental Disorders Division Severe and Disabling Mental Illness, Home and Community Based Services Waiver Manual
	Date effective: July 1, 2020 Date revised:
Policy Number: <i>SDMI HCBS 155</i>	Subject: Medical Escort and Medical Transportation Mileage

Medical Escort and Medical Transportation Mileage

- (1) Medical escort is only available when a family member or other informal supports are unable to accompany the member. For self-directed services, the individual who is employed by the member may provide medical escort even if they are a family member or other informal support.
- (2) Medical escort is not authorized to provide a member with cognitive deficits the use of an attendant to communicate and relay medical information at the medical appointment.
- (3) Coverage of medical escort is limited to appointments to obtain necessary medical services covered by the Medicaid program.

Medical Escort with Medicaid State Plan Transportation Mileage:

- (1) Medical escort with Medicaid Transportation Services provides an escort for a member who demonstrates a medical and functional need for assistance from an attendant en route to or at the medical appointment where mileage is billed to Medicaid Transportation Services. Information pertaining to Medicaid Transportation can be found at: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/Medicaid/Transportation>
- (2) If a provider agency is unsure whether a medical appointment is approved by Medicaid Transportation, they may request the member’s trip reference number and contact Medicaid Transportation at 1-800-292-7114 to verify the location of the approved provider.
- (3) Medical escort is only approved to the nearest provider. Nearest providers include providers closest to the member that provide the necessary services or a trip that is prior authorized by Medicaid Transportation (refer to ARM Title 37, Chapter 86, subchapter 24).

Medical Escort with Waiver Transportation Mileage:

- (1) Medicaid Transportation Services must be utilized first. Information pertaining to Medicaid Transportation can be found at: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/Medicaid/Transportation>

- (2) Medical transportation mileage through the SDMI program is reimbursement for personal vehicle mileage using non-Medical Transportation, when a behavioral intervention assistant (BIA) or a personal care attendant (PCA) drives a member to obtain a Medicaid reimbursable service. It is only available to reimburse mileage expenditures for local travel that Medicaid Transportation will not cover (15 miles or less roundtrip).
- (3) In addition to billing mileage, the BIA or PCA may bill for the time to the appoint, at the appointment, and time from the appointment.
- (4) Medical transportation mileage must be tracked on a Mileage and Medical Escort form. Tracking must include odometer readings at the beginning and end of the trip (last three digits of the odometer are acceptable) and the specific destination of the medical appointment with the name of medical provider and location (i.e. address and town).