

FACT SHEET

Travel Assistance Program

ISSUE

The Travel Assistance Program (TAP) helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible BC residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community.

KEY FACTS

- In 2004, the Ministry assumed financial responsibility for TAP ferry travel subsidies. Payment is made to BC Ferries through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- There were 119,446 TAP approvals issued by the Ministry for the fiscal year 2013/14, an increase of .8% over 2012/13.¹ Of those approvals, 98.6% were for fully-subsidized ferry travel.

Approved Confirmation by Travel Mode – April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

Mode	Number	Percent	Escort	Percent	One Way	Percent	Vehicle	%
Air	1,603	1.3	862	53.8	200	12.5		
Angel Flight	13	0.0	11	84.6	0	0.0		
Bus	18	0.0	8	44.4	0	0.0		
Ferry	117,753	98.6	73,754	62.6	3,589	3.0	113,793	96.6
Rail	59	0.0	30	50.8	5	8.5		
TOTAL	119,446	100.0	74,665	62.5	3,794	3.2		

- Of the 36,723 unique patients who obtained a TAP confirmation number in 2013/14, 37.5% were seniors and 12.9% were on Premium Assistance (table below). Of those unique patients, 85.6% obtained between 1 and 5 travel confirmations during fiscal year 2013/14 and an additional 9.8% obtained between 6 and 10 travel confirmations.²

Patients by Range of Approved Confirmations – April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

Conf's per Patient	Number of Patients	% of Patients	Total Conf's	% of Conf's	Number of Seniors	% of Seniors	Number on PA	% on PA
1 to 5	31,426	85.6	61,216	51.2	11,254	35.8	4,068	12.9
6 to 10	3,613	9.8	26,991	22.6	1,742	48.2	395	10.9
11 to 20	1,287	3.5	17,933	15.0	628	48.8	172	13.4
21 to 30	230	0.6	5,644	4.7	97	42.2	44	19.1
>30	167	0.5	7,662	6.4	59	35.3	41	24.6
TOTAL	36,723	100.0	119,446	100.0	13,780	37.5	4,720	12.9

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Program budget for ferry travel in 2013/14 was \$8,104,000. Expenditures for 2013/14 were \$10,881,429 (including fares and fuel surcharge) resulting in the cost exceeding the budget by \$2,777,429. Expenditures increased from \$10,501,429 in 2012/13 to \$10,881,429 in 2013/14, a year over year increase of 3.6%.

Approved by:

Daryl Conner, obo Manjit Sidhu, Finance and Corporate Services Division; May 9, 2014

Barbara Walman, Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Division; April 29, 2014

¹ <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/TravelAssistanceSummary.xhtml>

² <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/ApprovedConfirmationsPerPatient.xhtml>

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KEY FACTS

- In 2004, the Ministry assumed financial responsibility for TAP ferry travel subsidies. Payment is made to BC Ferries through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- There were 124,215 TAP approvals issued by the Ministry for the fiscal year 2014/15, an increase of 3.9% over 2013/14.¹ Of those approvals, 98.7% were for fully-subsidized ferry travel.

Approved Confirmation by Travel Mode – April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Mode	Number	Percent	Escort	Percent	One Way	Percent	Vehicle	%
Air	1,556	1.3	839	53.9	171	11		
Angel Flight	7	0.0	7	100	1	14.3		
Bus	10	0.0	2	20	0	0.0		
Ferry	122,589	98.7	78,819	64.3	3,506	2.9	117,906	96.2
Rail	53	0.0	31	58.5	4	7.5		
TOTAL	124,215	100.0	79,698	64.2	3,682	3.0		

- Of the 37,275 unique patients who obtained a TAP confirmation number in 2014/15, 39.5% were seniors and 12.7% were on Premium Assistance (table below). Of those unique patients, 85.2% obtained between 1 and 5 travel confirmations during fiscal year 2014/15 and an additional 9.9% obtained between 6 and 10 travel confirmations.²

Patients by Range of Approved Confirmations – April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Conf's per Patient	Number of Patients	% of Patients	Total Conf's	% of Conf's	Number of Seniors	% of Seniors	Number on PA	% on PA
1 to 5	31,772	85.2	62,465	50.3	11,910	37.5	4,066	12.8
6 to 10	3,693	9.9	27,475	22.1	1,895	51.3	418	11.3
11 to 20	1,350	3.6	18,843	15.2	711	52.7	167	12.4
21 to 30	276	0.7	6,757	5.4	124	44.9	40	14.5
>30	184	0.5	8,675	7.0	79	42.9	36	19.6
TOTAL	37,275	100.0	124,215	100.0	14,719	39.5	4,727	12.7

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Program budget for ferry travel in 2014/15 was \$11,000,000. Expenditures for 2014/15 were \$11,838,554 (including fares and fuel surcharge) resulting in the cost exceeding the budget by \$838,554. Expenditures increased from \$10,881,429 in 2013/14, a year over year increase of 8.8%.

Approved by:

Daryl Conner, obo Manjit Sidhu, Finance and Corporate Services Division; May 4, 2015

Barbara Walman, Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services Division; April 23, 2015

¹ <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/TravelAssistanceSummary.xhtml>

² <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/ApprovedConfirmationsPerPatient.xhtml>

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KEY FACTS

- In 2004, the Ministry assumed financial responsibility for TAP ferry travel subsidies. Payment is made to BC Ferries through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- There were 128,692 TAP approvals issued by the Ministry for the fiscal year 2015/16, an increase of 3.6% over 2014/15.¹ Of those approvals, 98.8% were for fully-subsidized ferry travel.

Approved Confirmation by Travel Mode – April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Mode	Number	Escort	One Way	Vehicle
Air	1,541	815	145	
Angel Flight	6	2	1	
Bus	5	3	0	
Ferry	127,087	82,224	3,601	122,211
Rail	53	36	5	
TOTAL	124,215	83,080	3,752	

- Of the 37,848 unique patients who obtained a TAP confirmation number in 2015/16, 41% were seniors and 12.9% were on Premium Assistance (table below). Of those unique patients, 84.8.2% obtained between 1 and 5 travel confirmations during fiscal year 2015/16 and an additional 10% obtained between 6 and 10 travel confirmations.²

Patients by Range of Approved Confirmations – April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Conf's per Patient	Number of Patients	% of Patients	Total Conf's	% of Conf's	Number of Seniors	% of Seniors	Number on PA	% on PA
1 to 5	32,080	84.8	63,107	49	12,520	39	4,190	13.1
6 to 10	3,799	10	28,331	22	1,994	52.5	415	10.9
11 to 20	1,503	4	20,982	16.3	778	51.8	190	12.6
21 to 30	264	0.7	6,537	5.1	136	51.5	34	12.9
>30	202	0.5	9,735	7.6	94	46.5	44	21.8
TOTAL	37,848	100.0	128,692	100.0	15,522	41	4,873	12.9

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

TAP budget in 2015/16 was \$11,000,000. Expenditures for 2015/16 were \$11,898,811 resulting in the cost exceeding the budget by \$898,811. Although TAP approvals issued in 2015/16 increased by 3.6%, the increase in expenditures was only .5% which can be attributed to the passenger and vehicle fare discount promotions offered by BC Ferries. TAP budget for 2016/17 is \$13,000,000.

Approved by:

Brenda Rafter, obo Manjit Sidhu, Finance and Corporate Services Division; November 2, 2016

Barbara Walman, Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services Division; October 27, 2016

¹ <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/TravelAssistanceSummary.xhtml>

² <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/ApprovedConfirmationsPerPatient.xhtml>

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KEY FACTS

- In 2004, the Ministry assumed financial responsibility for TAP ferry travel subsidies. Payment is made to BC Ferries through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- There were 133,815 approvals issued by the Ministry for the fiscal year 2016/17, an increase of 3.98% over 2015/16.¹ Of those approvals, 96% were for fully-subsidized ferry travel.

Approved Confirmation by Travel Mode – April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Mode	Number	Escort	One Way	Vehicle
Air	1,642	792	187	
Angel Flight	9	6	0	
Bus	9	1	1	
Ferry	132,096	83,930	3,611	126,875
Rail	59	37	1	
TOTAL	133,815	84,766	3,800	

- Of the 39,086 unique patients who obtained a TAP confirmation number in 2016/17, 41.4% were seniors and 13% were on Premium Assistance (table below). Of those unique patients, 84.7.2% obtained between 1 and 5 travel confirmations during fiscal year 2016/17, and an additional 10% obtained between 6 and 10 travel confirmations.²

Patients by Range of Approved Confirmations – April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Conf's per Patient	Number of Patients	% of Patients	Total Conf's	% of Conf's	Number of Seniors	% of Seniors	Number on PA	% on PA
1 to 5	33,108	84.7	65,200	48.7	13,001	39.3	4,297	13.
6 to 10	3,893	10	29,094	21.7	2,074	53.3	468	12
11 to 20	1,552	4	21,468	16	850	54.8	207	13.3
21 to 30	329	0.8	8,095	6	169	51.4	53	16.1
>30	204	0.5	9,958	7.4	90	44.1	40	19.6
TOTAL	39,086	100.0	133,815	100.0	16,184	41.4	5,065	13

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

TAP budget in 2016/17 was \$13,000,000. Expenditures for 2016/17 were \$12,218,024.

Approved by:

Mitch Moneo, obo Ted Patterson, Workforce Planning, Compensation & Beneficiary Services Division; May 18, 2017
 Brenda Rafter, obo Manjit Sidhu, Finance and Corporate Services Division; May 26, 2017

¹ <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/TravelAssistanceSummary.xhtml>

² <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/ApprovedConfirmationsPerPatient.xhtml>

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KEY FACTS

- In 2004, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) assumed financial responsibility for TAP ferry travel subsidies. Payment is made to BC Ferries through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- There were 133,247 approvals issued by the Ministry for the fiscal year 2017/18, a decrease of 0.4% from 2016/17.¹ Of those approvals, 98.8% were for fully-subsidized ferry travel.

Approved Confirmation by Travel Mode – April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Mode	Number	Escort	One Way	Vehicle
Air	1,589	768	176	
Angel Flight	3	2	0	
Bus	3	2	0	
Ferry	131,587	82,242	3,497	126,478
Rail	65	37	6	
TOTAL	133,247	83,051	3,679	

- Of the 40,038 unique patients who obtained a TAP confirmation number in 2017/18, 42.5% were seniors and 22.5% were on Premium Assistance (table below). Of those unique patients, 85.2% obtained between 1 and 5 travel confirmations during fiscal year 2017/18, and an additional 10% obtained between 6 and 10 travel confirmations.²

Patients by Range of Approved Confirmations – April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Conf's per Patient	Number of Patients	% of Patients	Total Conf's	% of Conf's	Number of Seniors	% of Seniors	Number on PA	% on PA
1 to 5	34,101	85.2	66,924	50.2	13,793	40.4	8,125	23.8
6 to 10	3,957	9.9	29,522	22.2	2,151	54.4	572	14.5
11 to 20	1,506	3.8	21,154	15.9	831	55.2	219	14.5.3
21 to 30	275	0.7	6,664	5	150	54.5	40	14.5
>30	199	0.5	8,983	6.7	99	49.7	33	16.6
TOTAL	40,038	100.0	133,247	100.0	17,024	42.5	8,989	22.5

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- For 2017/18, the budget was \$14.0 million and expenditure at March 31, 2018 was \$12.5 million. For 2018/19, the budget is \$14.5 million

Approved by:

Mark Armitage, ADM, Workforce Compensation, Agreements & Beneficiary Services Division; October 15, 2018
 Violet Louie obo Jason Butler, Finance and Corporate Services Division; October 19, 2018.

¹ <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/TravelAssistanceSummary.xhtml>

² <https://tap.hlth.gov.bc.ca/tap/faces/ApprovedConfirmationsPerPatient.xhtml>