

Manitoba has agreements in place for hip and knee replacement surgery with the following out-of-province providers:

- Big Thunder Orthopedic Associates in Dryden and Kenora, Ontario
- Sanford Health in Fargo, North Dakota
- Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio

Patients who are willing to travel for surgery and who meet the eligibility criteria can self-refer by completing the patient enquiry form at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/dsrtf-out-of-province-patient-enquiry>, or by emailing patientnav@gov.mb.ca.

If you are currently on a waitlist for surgery, you can also discuss travelling out-of-province with your family doctor or surgeon.

All patients must be referred and pre-approved before travelling out-of-province for procedures. Doctor appointments, transportation or any other care-related services should not be arranged without prior approval. Otherwise, you may be held responsible for any costs you incur.

Patients are required to pay for all accommodation, transportation and meal expenses during travel. Any expenses incurred by the patient that are within the pre-defined limits of the program will be fully reimbursed by Manitoba Health after surgery.

Manitoba Health pays all out-of-province fees to the surgeon and hospital directly.



More Information

Manitoba’s Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force was created to help reduce surgical and diagnostic waitlists in Manitoba. They have implemented several initiatives, including out-of-province travel for hip and knee surgery.

For more information about the out-of-province program for hip and knee surgery, or to apply, visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/dsrecovery or call 1-888-600-0108.



Out-of-Province Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery Guide



Eligibility

Patients must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the out-of-province hip and knee replacement surgery:

- On a waitlist for a total hip or knee replacement
- BMI < 45 - Weight within a normal range
- Full COVID-19 vaccination (two doses) - the purpose of this requirement is to reduce the chance of contracting COVID-19 and its subsequent potential impact on recovery
- Stable heart condition or no heart problems
- Stable asthmatic or chronic lung conditions
- Not on home oxygen
- Normal kidney function - no dialysis patients
- Well controlled diabetes
- No recent history of stroke or mini strokes (i.e. within past year)
- No known blood vessel conditions such as an aneurysm
- No liver conditions
- Do not have an immunosuppressive condition
- Do not have low iron or require follow up for history of low iron
- Not on chemotherapy or awaiting cancer surgery
- No muscle conditions such as muscular dystrophy

All patients are screened and must meet all eligibility criteria.

Patient Navigators

Patient navigators work with the referring surgeon to help coordinate the activities associated with travel. The patient navigator will also help your surgeon's office with the pre-op preparation.

The patient navigator will also assist you with the expense reimbursement claim to Manitoba Health and any other questions you may have.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, a patient navigator will contact you for further information.

Before and After Surgery

Before surgery, the out-of-province surgeon and surgical team will meet with you (over the phone or via a virtual meeting) to answer any questions you may have and provide additional instructions about your surgery.

After the surgery, you will see your surgeon in Manitoba for follow up care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will I lose my place on the surgical waitlist if I choose not to travel out-of-province?

A: No, you will not lose your place on the waitlist. When other patients travel out-of-province, your wait time may be reduced.

Q: Will I get to meet the out-of-province surgeon before I travel for my surgery?

A: Yes, you will have a virtual meeting with the surgeon and surgical team from the location of your out-of-province surgery where you can ask any questions you may have.

Q: Do I need a passport to travel to the US for surgery?

A: Yes, for US travel you will require a valid passport and must follow all travel restrictions while travelling in the US for your surgery.

