



# LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY

## SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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### Mileage reimbursement Q & A

**Q: Can I receive mileage reimbursement for a doctor's appointment more than 30 miles away?**

A: If you are going to a doctor's appointment that is more than 30 miles away and the doctor is not a specialist, and that service is available within a 30 mile radius of your home, then the medical trip will not be reimbursable. The doctor visit itself would still be covered but not the trip and trip costs to see that doctor.

**Q: Can I receive mileage reimbursement to see a specialist more than 60 miles away?**

A: If your primary local doctor refers you to a specialist over 60 miles away from your home, you can be reimbursed for mileage for that trip. However, if a specialist is available within the 60 miles radius, you will not be reimbursed.

Example: A doctor in Baudette refers you to a specialist in Bemidji but that specialist comes to Baudette each month to see patients, we would not reimburse your trip to Bemidji unless it was an emergency to get in before the specialist comes to Baudette.

Same rules would apply if your primary doctor is over 30 miles away and refers you to a specialist.

**Q: Can I receive mileage reimbursement for a dentist appointment more than 30 miles away?**

A: If you see a dentist that is over 30 miles from your home for general dentistry, the mileage to that dentist is not reimbursable if there is a dentist within 30 miles that could provide the same care. However, if your regular dentist makes a referral to a specialist that is over 60 miles away for a special procedure that the local dentist cannot do, then the trip would be covered.

**Q: Can I receive reimbursement for follow up medical appointments?**

A: If you have been doctoring with a specialist that is located out of town and there are follow up procedures or labs that can be done locally, then the mileage to do those labs/procedures out of town would not be reimbursable. Many times a specialist will automatically schedule you for annual follow-up appointments, these trips are not reimbursable unless you see your primary doctor and get a new referral.

**Q: Can lodging be reimbursed for a family member if I'm admitted to the hospital?**

A: Lodging for a family member while you are hospitalized will only be authorized in rare instances. If you are in the hospital and capable of making your own medical decisions, lodging for the family member will not be covered. We would require a letter from the doctor stating you are unable to make medical decisions in order to pay for lodging for the family member to be with you.

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