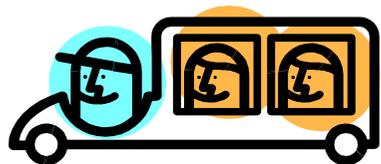
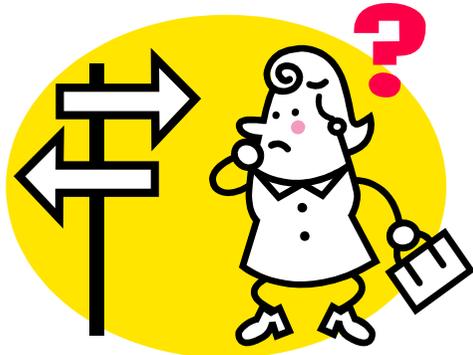


*Can we improve this leaflet? Please let the Patient Group know. 01934 249004*

**Transport information is constantly being updated and if anyone has relevant details that would assist Cheddar Medical Centre in helping their patients access transport for hospital appointments, please inform the Patient Group. 01934 249004**



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**CHEDDAR  
MEDICAL  
CENTRE**

**TRANSPORT  
INFORMATION**

This leaflet is produced by our Patient Group to inform you about local hospital transport

## [Transport information for patients in](#)

### [Cheddar travelling to local hospitals](#)

It is expected that patients will generally use their own transport to attend hospital appointments. However, the information below sets out what transport options are available for patients to assist them in accessing the local hospitals.

The NHS will provide a **FREE** transport service to those patients who have a medical / \*social need and meet any of the prescribed criteria:

#### **NHS Patient Transport Service:**

- Need prescribed oxygen when mobilising
- Need intravenous support
- Can only be moved on a stretcher
- Can only walk a few steps and are dependent upon medical equipment or aids that cannot fit into bus or taxi
- Patient has an illness, condition or disability which stops them using a car, bus or taxi unaided
- Patient is receiving treatment which leaves them debilitated so cannot use car, bus, taxi unaided
- No escort allowed to accompany patient unless they meet the criteria as medical escort.
- \* Social need means you do not have a medical need but you still need assistance to get to your appointment because you are on a low income.

#### **Transport Costs:**

Claims are made at the NHS hospital or clinic at the time of appointment upon production of relevant documents and claim forms which are ordered over the phone from NHS Help with Health Costs on 0845 850 1166.

If you think you have a medical or social need

for NHS funded transport to get to your medical appointment (not dental, GP, pharmacy or optician) call the Patient Transport Advice Centre on 01278 727444. Phone line open 8.30am-6.30pm. Or email [transport@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:transport@somerset.nhs.uk). Contact should be made as soon as your appointment is made and at least forty eight hours prior to the appointment.

#### **Claiming costs for travelling to medical appointments**

You may be eligible to claim financial help under Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) if you are:

- On a low income
- Need NHS treatment at a hospital, other NHS centre or private hospital
- Have been referred by a healthcare professional

Further information on [www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcosts/pages/Travelcosts.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcosts/pages/Travelcosts.aspx)

HTCS does not apply if you are

- Visiting a dentist or GP for routine appointments
- Visiting others in hospital
- Visiting A&E or minor injury units.

For eligibility please contact Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme or pick up an NHS Somerset CCG Patient Transport Service brochure in the Surgery. Ask at Reception. Costs are paid back immediately in cash on production of correct documentation. Claims can be backdated up to three months.

NHS Help with Health Costs:  
0300 330 1343 for all details.

#### **Other Transport Options**

##### **Public Transport:**

Public transport to Bristol, Taunton and Weston-

super-Mare is available but the journey can be time consuming. Up-to-date public transport information is available from Traveline, tel. 0871 2002233, or [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info).

**Cheddar to Bristol bus:** There is a bus that goes directly to Bristol once a month on the second Thursday of the month. It leaves Cheddar at 9.30am (opposite Tesco Express) and drops off at Lewins Mead. The return journey departs at 2.30pm from Lewins Mead. The return cost is £5.00. Some patients have used this service for appointments at the Eye Hospital or BRI.

**Access to Southmead Hospital:** For patients to access Southmead Hospital and who do not want to drive across Bristol, there is now a bus service that leaves Long Ashton Park and Ride on a half-hourly schedule and returns.

**Bristol hospitals:**

[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/travelling-to-and-from-our-hospitals/](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/travelling-to-and-from-our-hospitals/)

#### **Community Transport:**

**Mendip Community Transport:** Despite the name, this service covers Cheddar and there are two options:

**Hospital Car Service:** This is a door-to-door service provided by volunteer drivers using their own cars. There is a charge for this service, but bus pass holders receive a reduction. Contact Mendip Community Transport on 01749 880613

**Sedgemoor Slinky:** Two minibuses - one covers north of Sedgemoor and the other the South. MCT operates this service under contract from Somerset County Council and provides door to door transport for individuals who cannot use conventional public transport. Patients need to register on forms available from Cheddar Medical