



Mesh removal surgery with an independent provider

Expenses leaflet

What is covered before travelling?

Prior to travelling to your chosen independent provider, you will be reimbursed for the following depending on which option you have chosen:

- passport (this will only be for new/renewal passport claims made after the decision to use independent provider has been made and agreed with your clinical team)
- ESTAs for yourself and travel companion
- travel companion insurance
- fuel costs (based on current advisory rate (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advisory-fuel-rates>))

What is covered while travelling?

A daily subsistence allowance of £50 will be allocated each for you and your travelling companion. This daily allowance will be broken down as follows:

- £20 (or \$25 in USA) meal allowance per person per day used towards lunch/dinner in the hotel during your stay. The hotel will offset this total from the hotel bill.
- A day rate of £30 per person per day.
- Breakfast will be included in the hotel booking.

This is for:

- reasonable food (lunch/dinner)
- beverages (non alcoholic)
- transport (if travelling to USA you must utilise the free shuttle between hotel and hospital where reasonably possible).
- medication (as recommended by Independent Provider clinician)

What is not covered?

It should be noted the following won't be reimbursed by NSS:

- tips/service charges/gratuities
- gifts/souvenirs
- toiletries
- reading material/entertainment
- alcohol

This is not an exhaustive list. We politely request that patients are prudent when spending public money. NSS reserves the right to challenge excessive reimbursement claims at its discretion.

Anything not on the list should be discussed with mesh co-ordinator in the first instance.

You will need to keep all itemised receipts and itemised hotel bills to send back to NSS on your return. If you pay for a service electronically (via an App) then we will require a copy of the itemised electronic receipt.

NSS will not pay any expenses that are unreceipted or not itemised, bank statements will not be accepted. You will be asked to return any allowance that is not used to NSS. Bank statements will not be accepted.

If you require further clarification on what the allowance can/cannot be used for, please contact the mesh co-ordinator.

To ensure you have the latest version of this leaflet, please visit

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/complex-mesh-surgical-service/independent-providers>

The information provided in this leaflet is for guidance, and individual circumstances will be considered as they arise.

