



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

References:

THE CONSTITUTION OF PITCAIRN

Contains multiple references relating to Health including Section 61 Definition of “minor”

LAWS OF PITCAIRN, HENDERSON, DUCIE AND OENO ISLANDS

2017 Revised Edition

Cap 7 Prisons Ordinance Section 8 & Prisons Regulations

Cap 11 Local Government Ordinance, Section 7

Local Government Regulations Part II, Part III,

CAP 12 Immigration Ordinance Sections 6 (2)(c), 12 (3)(c) & 19

CAP 24 Dental & Medical practitioners Ordinance

CAP 22 Social Welfare Benefits Ordinance Part II & III

GPI POLICIES

GPI Employment Guidance

GPI Health & Safety Policy

GPI Subsidised Travel & Baggage Policy

GPI Social Protection Policy

GPI Personal Loans Policy

GPI Pitcairn Island Health Centre Operational Policy

Rationale:

The GPI is committed to providing a high standard of primary health care to the Pitcairn community, via its permanently staffed Health Centre. This includes health management, health promotion, preventative health care and secondary assessments, referrals and funding for off-island treatment and travel requirements. These activities reflect the United Kingdom’s obligations under the United Nations International Health Regulations.

Pitcairn Island is remote and accessible only by sea. Its normally resident population of less than 50 individuals is aging, with increasing numbers moving from employment to retirement. The GPI’s ability to effectively meet Pitcairn’s health needs remains a high priority. All off-island treatment assessments and referrals are managed by the Pitcairn Medical Officer in partnership with Healix and provided off-island in New Zealand and/or Tahiti.

Policy Objective:

To support the effective delivery of comprehensive, fair and affordable health care funding for the Pitcairn Island community. To provide information about GPI Health Funding and the GPI Health funding allowances and entitlements.

Abbreviations:

HMG – His Majesty’s Government

GPI – Government of Pitcairn Islands

PIO – Pitcairn Island Office in NZ

PI MO – Pitcairn Island Medical Officer

GPI Charter Vessel – Currently MV Silver Supporter

Medivac – Emergency Medical Evacuation

PSP – Patient Support Person

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

FCA – Family and Community Advisor
UKHSA - UK Health Security Agency

Definitions:

Primary Health Care: Refers to a broad range of out-of-hospital services. Its goal is to manage and improve community health through regular consultation and preventative services such as health education and counselling, disease prevention and screening. Primary health care includes services such as general practice, nursing, pharmacy, family planning, mental health and wellbeing, dentistry, optometry and audiology. Some primary health care may require the patient to have treatment off-island at the discretion of the Pitcairn Island Medical Officer.

Off-island Medical treatment: Refers to treatment requiring hospitalisation or specialist care. Pitcairn Island does not have these facilities. Patients requiring off-island health care must travel to either Tahiti or NZ at the discretion of the Pitcairn Island Medical Officer.

Medevac: This refers to the emergency medical evacuation of sick or wounded patients. It is distinct from medical referrals which relate to less urgent, off-island medical care or investigation.

GPI Temporary Disability: A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). The GPI has in place a Temporary Disability Allowance in place to enable those suffering temporary disability, as diagnosed by the PI MO, to continue to participate in tailored employment i.e., reduced hours or light duties, whilst recovering without financial hardship. The Temporary Disability Allowance entitlement is recommended and monitored by the PI MO and administered by the DM Community Services.

GPI Cost-of- Living Allowance: The GPI provides a non-recoverable daily allowance for patients and, if necessary, approved carers to cover reasonable daily expenses whilst off-island for medical treatment.

New Settler: This refers to those who have been approved, by the Governor of the Pitcairn Islands, to settle on Pitcairn. A new settler's entitlement to subsidised health costs and benefits does not come into effect until they have been normally resident on Pitcairn Island for 6 months or more.

Minor: A minor is a person, 18 years or younger, unless otherwise provided for within the Laws of Pitcairn Island. There is no charge for medical treatment for normally resident minors who attend school or who may be home schooled

Normally Resident: Refers to a person who usually lives on Pitcairn Island as a long-term permanent resident.

Off-Island Medical Treatment Referral Categories: Refers to the types of Off-Island treatment options available, on approval of the PI MO, as listed in the GPI/MO Medical Referral Approval form (see Annex C). There are 4 categories.

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

Chronic Illness: Refers to a persistent and recurring illness, lasting three months or more, which incurs significant disturbance and impairment to a persons physical, psychological or social wellbeing.

Healix: refers to Healix Health Services, a company which provides 24/7 medical support to the PI MO, including logistical support for off island treatment.

1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES – GPI HEALTH FUNDING

All those normally resident on Pitcairn Island and qualifying new settlers, between 18 and 65 years of age, requiring approved medical treatment off-island are entitled to the following financial cover:

- 1) 2/3 payment of the cost of the hospitalisation, consultation and operation fees. The health fund recipient is responsible for payment of 1/3 of their total medical costs.
- 2) 2/3 payment of post-operative care/physio therapy as approved by the PI MO. Consultants will recommend such care to the PI MO who will authorise accordingly.
- 3) No cost for airfares between Pitcairn Island and approved/designated treatment
- 4) No cost for passage on the GPI Charter vessel (refer GPI Subsidised Travel & Baggage Allowance Policy).
- 5) A non-recoverable GPI Cost-Of-Living Allowance, set at NZ\$80 pp/pd
- 6) The PIO may issue Patients, travelling off-island for medical treatment, with a bank debit card to cover unforeseen additional costs, when required. Debit Cards are administered and monitored by the PIO.

2. GENERAL ACTIVITIES – GPI HEALTH FUNDING TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 1) The GPI Health Fund and Cost-of-Living allowances shall not be granted to any person under the provisions of this policy unless they are normally resident on Pitcairn Island or qualifying new settlers.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the PI MO and the Nurse to provide the PIO and the Pitcairn Island Travel Coordinator with advance booking information (no less than 4 weeks – except in emergency) for patients travelling off-island for medical treatment, so as to ensure there is time to coordinate flights and accommodation requirements.
- 3) All travel bookings confirmed by the PIO are to remain in place, with no variation, unless specifically agreed by the PI MO. Any other costs will be met by the patient.
- 4) When a patient signs a GPI Medical Referral Form, they are agreeing to the type of GPI Health Care funding they require, as listed in Annex C.
- 5) On notification of a Medical Referral requirement it is the responsibility of the DM Community to provide the patient with a GPI Health Fund Application form, within three months of their return to

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

Pitcairn, so as to ascertain their ability to repay their health funding debt within a reasonable period of time.

- 6) A completed GPI Health Fund Application form is passed to the PIO and the Government Treasury Office to record and action payment as stated and agreed with the patient.
- 7) Repayments toward a patient's GPI Health Fund debt are not required until the patients have returned to Pitcairn Island and has been normally resident for three months.
- 8) GPI requires repayment of GPI Health Fund debt over a given period of time, on a monthly basis, as agreed with the applicant, on a case-by-case basis (see Annex D).
- 9) Those in receipt of GPI Health Funding are required to return to Pitcairn Island at the first available opportunity once they have been medically cleared to do so, by the PI MO, in consultation with the patient's relevant specialist. If a Cost-of-Living Allowance recipient, once medically cleared to travel, decides to extend their stay the Cost-of-Living Allowance will be stopped at the time the next ship would have left. This includes a patient's support person if applicable.
- 10) It is the responsibility of the PI MO to advise the DM Community of which Medical Referral Category a patient or patient support person requires (see Annex C)
- 11) It is the responsibility of the Pitcairn Island Council to ensure the GPI Pitcairn Health Centre Operational Policy and the GPI Health Funding Policy is made available to the Pitcairn Community.
- 12) It is the responsibility of Pitcairn Health Centre to advise patients to read the GPI Pitcairn Health Centre Operational Policy and the GPI Health Funding Policy when they sign their Medical Referral Form so as to ensure patients are well informed of their right and responsibilities.
- 13) Pensioners remain required to continue making repayments toward their GPI Health Fund debt after turning 65 years of age and taking full retirement.
- 14) Off-island medical travel will be via the GPI Charter vessel unless the PI MO deems a medical evacuation situation requires travel on another vessel.

3. GPI HEALTH FUNDING TEMPORARY DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

The GPI Temporary Disability Allowance enables those suffering temporary disability, as diagnosed by the PI MO, to continue to participate in tailored employment i.e., reduced hours or light duties, whilst recovering without financial hardship. Temporary Disability Allowance entitlement is recommended and monitored by the PI MO and administered by the DM Community Services.

4. MEDICAL REFERRAL CATEGORIES & ENTITLEMENTS

There are 4 types of Health Funding options, as listed in the GPI/MO Medical Referral Approval form (see Annex C).

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

- 1) **Referral Category A:** Refers to eligible patients, between the ages of 18 and 65, requiring medical treatment(s) off-island.
 - Category A referrals are required to pay 1/3 of the total cost of their medical treatment(s)
 - No charge for travel between Pitcairn and the designated treatment location.
 - No charge for accommodation at the designated treatment location.
 - Meals and reasonable cost-of-living expenses are covered by the GPI Cost-of-Living allowance which is administered and monitored by the PIO. Refer 5.5
 - Those in receipt of Category A GPI Health Funding are required to return to Pitcairn Island at the first available opportunity, when medically cleared to do so by the PI MO in consultation with the patient's relevant specialist.

- 2) **Referral Category B:** Refers to eligible patients, between the ages of 18 and 65 years of age, requiring non-urgent and/or preventative medical treatment(s) whilst they are off-island for personal or business reasons.
 - This referral category is required to pay 1/3 of the total cost of their medical treatment(s).
 - If travelling for personal reason Category B referrals will pay NZ\$500 each way for travel on the GPI Charter Vessel and full costs for their own flights, accommodation, meals and expenses etc., (refer GPI Subsidised Travel and Baggage Allowance Policy)
 - If travelling for GPI related business reasons all other travel and accommodation arrangements for Category B referrals are managed by relevant line manager/Administrator and the PIO.
 - Category B patients may either:
 - 1) Pay for treatment themselves, and submit receipts to the PIO for 2/3 reimbursement.
 - 2) Have the PIO provide the medical provider with a guarantee of payment letter, so that the PIO may pay the amount in full, on behalf of the patient then include 1/3 of the cost to the patient's GPI Health Funding debt.

- 3) **Referral Categories C1 & C2:** Refer to a designated Patient Support Person (PSP), approved by the PI MO, to travel with and care for a patient requiring off-island medical treatment(s).
 - 3.1 **Category C1:** Is a PSP who does not require their own non-urgent and/or preventative medical treatment(s) whilst they are off-island supporting a patient. The following applies:
 - No charge for travel on the GPI Charter vessel (see GPI Subsidised Travel & Baggage Allowance Policy)
 - No charge for flights to and from the patients designated treatment location.
 - No charge for accommodation
 - Meals and reasonable cost of living expenses are covered by the GPI Cost-of-Living allowance which is administered and monitored by the PIO.

 - 3.2 **Category C2:** Refers to a PSP who does require their own non-urgent and/or preventative medical treatment(s) whilst they are off-island caring for a patient. The following applies
 - No Charge for travel on the GPI Chartered Vessel (refer GPI Subsidised Travel & Baggage Allowance Policy)

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

- This referral category is required to pay 1/3 of the total cost of their medical treatment(s).
- There is no charge for accommodation at the designated treatment location
- Meals and reasonable cost-of-living expenses are covered by the GPI Cost-of-Living allowance which is administered and monitored by the PIO.

5. GENERAL ACTIVITIES: COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE CONDITIONS

The GPI provides a non-recoverable daily allowance for referred patients and approved PSPs to cover reasonable daily expenses whilst off-island for medical treatment. Cost-of-Living allowances shall not be granted to any person under the provisions of this policy unless they are normally resident on Pitcairn Island or approved resident new settlers.

- 1) The Cost-of-Living Allowance is set at NZ\$80 pp/pd
- 2) The Cost-of-Living Allowance is administered by the PIO and generally paid weekly. It is effective from the day of arrival at the patient's approved treatment destination.
- 3) If deemed necessary by the PIO an advance payment may be paid to the recipient.
- 4) The PIO may issue Patients, travelling off-island for medical treatment, with a bank debit card to cover unforeseen additional costs, when required. Debit Cards are administered and monitored by the PIO.
- 5) The Cost-of-Living Allowance remains available for the duration of time spent at the treatment destination, provided the patient and PSP return to Pitcairn Island at the first available opportunity, after clearance by the PI MO in consultation with the patient's relevant specialist.
- 6) Beneficiaries under parts II, III, and IV of the Social Welfare Ordinance are entitled to receive a Cost-of-Living Allowance, in addition to their existing pension or benefit. This refers only to the aged pension, the child benefit and the widow/widower's pension.
- 7) Payment of a GPI Temporary Disability Allowance ceases when a patient departs Pitcairn Island, for any reason.
- 8) The Cost-of-Living Allowance will be withdrawn if a patient and/or a PSP is employed for financial gain whilst off-island or is in receipt of a benefit from any other source, that is more than the Cost-of-Living Allowance
- 9) The Cost-of-Living Allowance will be withdrawn if a recipient leaves an approved treatment destination without the approval the PI MO/ Administrator and the PIO.
- 10) In all cases every effort will be made to minimise the time referred patients spend off-island. If a Cost-of-Living Allowance recipient, once medically cleared to travel, decides to extend their stay the Cost-of-Living Allowance will be stopped at the time the next ship would have left.

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)



GPI POLICY - Pitcairn Health Funding Policy

11) If a Cost-of-Living Allowance recipient chooses to stay with family members/friends, half of the allowance will be directly credited, by the PIO, to the accommodating family.

12) Those normally resident on Pitcairn and approved new settlers, requiring off island medical treatment, may apply for further social support under the GPI Social Protection Policy or GPI Personal Loan Policy. Conditions apply (refer GPI Social Protection Policy & GPI Personal Loan Policy).

13) Falsification of information relating to medical referrals will be considered fraudulent and subject to legal action.

14) Patients and PSPs are required to travel when the PI MO deems it necessary. Failure to travel when advised may result in medical condition becoming worse. The PI MO is not obligated to arrange for alternative dates for medical appointment/s if their medical recommendations have not been adhered to.

6. GENERAL ACTIVITIES – DEPENDENT CHILDREN

The PI MO may, in consultation with the patient, recommend full travel cover for a patient's dependent child/children. This will entail the following for dependent children.

- 1) Free passage for return travel on the GPI Charter Vessel
- 2) No charge for accommodation and meals at the patient's approved treatment destination
- 3) No charge for travel between Pitcairn and the approved treatment destination
- 4) The parent/patient may apply for financial and other social support via the GPI Social Protection Policy if needed.
- 5) Those travelling as approved dependent children are required to adhere to provisions of this policy as supervised by their parents.

Annexes

Annex A - Pitcairn Health Centre Treatment and Medication Charges

Annex B - GPI Emergency Medical Evacuation Procedures

Annex C - GPI PI MO Medical Treatment Referral Form

Annex D - GPI Health Funding Application Form

Date Policy last reviewed: Nov 16th 2022.

Date Policy for next review: April 16th 2023 (6 months)