

DATE: 14 August 2020
TO: ALL MEDIA
SUBJECT: NNSWLHD Queensland border exemptions for specialist medical appointments

Please attribute to Wayne Jones, Chief Executive, Northern NSW Local Health District

Queensland Health have provided updated guidance for NNSWLHD residents outside the border zone who need to access specialist medical care in Queensland.

Patients can continue to enter Queensland from outside the border zone, or travel to health providers in Queensland outside the border zone. This is permitted under Paragraph 11 (i) of the current Public Health Direction.

To access specialist health services in Queensland, residents must apply for a Queensland Border Declaration Pass (General) at <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/border-closing>

Eligible residents should then select the option:

- Entering Queensland to obtain specialist health care that cannot be obtained at your place of residence, or as a support person to a person obtaining such care and can provide evidence of the time and place of the specialist appointment.

When crossing the border by road into Queensland, residents will need to present their border declaration, as well as documentation confirming their medical appointment or treatment.

Specialist health care includes the following:

- Queensland Children's Hospital appointment confirmed in writing by the hospital
- Specialist outpatient appointment at a Queensland Hospital and Health Service, confirmed in writing by the service
- Specialist appointment at a licensed Queensland private health facility, confirmed in writing by the service
- Specialist appointment, confirmed in writing by the service along with a written referral from a GP
- Other appointments at a Queensland Hospital and Health Service accompanied by a form signed by the Chief Executive that the patient requires specialist health care in Queensland.

A Patient who does not meet these requirements will not be able to enter Queensland unless granted an individual exemption by the Chief Health Officer (CHO). Exceptional circumstances must exist. Exemption requests can be made at <https://healthserviceportal.health.qld.gov.au/hdsp>

Patients will have to quarantine as follows:

- For an outpatient: in government arranged accommodation if treatment is as an outpatient for more than one day.
- For a day treatment or appointment, the person must leave Queensland immediately following the treatment/appointment.
- For an inpatient: at the hospital if receiving treatment as an inpatient. A support person accompanying someone receiving essential medical care will need to stay in government arranged accommodation, at their own expense. Alternatively, they can drop the person at the medical facility and drive straight back without stopping in Queensland and then come back to pick them up.
- Children receiving treatment at the Children's Hospital, and their family, can quarantine with the child at the hospital.

For more information about border declarations, please visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass> or contact 13 42 68.