

Accompaniment to Medical Appointments

Welfare and Institutions Code section 12300(b) specifies that, “Supportive services shall include... accompaniment by a provider when needed during necessary travel to health-related appointments or to alternative resource sites...”

Manual of Policy and Procedures section 30-757.15 states, “Assistance by the provider is available for transportation when the recipient's presence is required at the destination and such assistance is necessary to accomplish the travel, limited to:

- .151 Transportation to and from appointments with physicians, dentists and other health practitioners.
- .152 Transportation necessary for fitting health related appliances/devices and special clothing.
- .153 Transportation under .151 and .152 above shall be authorized only after social service staff has determined that Medi-Cal will not provide transportation in the specific case.
- .154 Transportation to the site where alternative resources provide in-home supportive services to the recipient in lieu of IHSS.”



Accompaniment to Medical Appointments is not intended for the purpose of transportation; rather, it may be authorized only when the recipient needs assistance with specific IHSS tasks during transportation to/from or at the destination.

Time authorized for accompaniment does not include time to perform the specific IHSS tasks the recipient needs assistance with during

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transportation. Time for those tasks would be authorized in the specific service category in which assistance is needed.

- For example, a recipient needs his/her provider's assistance to get from the car to the dentist's office: The time traveling to and from the dental appointment would be authorized under the Accompaniment category; the time required to assist the recipient to/from the car to the dentist's office would be authorized under the Ambulation category.

FLSA regulations (29 Code of Federal Regulations 785.15 & 785.16) define two different types of wait time:

- "engaged to wait," and
- "waiting to be engaged"

"engaged to wait" means unpredictable periods of time, usually of short duration, during which the employee is unable to use the time effectively for his own purposes. Waiting is an integral part of the job; the wait time belongs to and is controlled by the employer. A period of time that is not sufficient to allow the individual to effectively use the time on his/her own may also be considered time "engaged to wait." Employees must be compensated for time when they are considered "engaged to wait."

Examples of the definition "engaged to wait" are:

- When a provider accompanies his/her recipient to a medical appointment of unknown duration and the provider is required to remain at the doctor's office because at any moment he/she may be called upon to assist the recipient with returning home.
- Other wait periods of short duration, such as standing in line at a grocery store or pharmacy, or waiting for clothes to finish

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wash/dry cycles at a coin-operated laundry facility (Laundromat). This time would be included in the time

authorized under the appropriate service category, i.e., Food Shopping, Shopping/Other Errands, and Laundry.



“waiting to be engaged” means periods during which the employee is completely relieved from duty and which are long enough to enable him to use the time effectively for his own purposes. These waiting periods are not considered hours worked. The employee must be informed in advance that he/she may leave the job and that he/she will not have to return to work until a specified time. Under such circumstances, the provider would not be

considered “engaged in wait” and would not be compensated for the time unless he/she was using the time to complete other authorized services for the recipient, e.g., Shopping/Errands.

An example of the definition “waiting to be engaged” is:

- A provider accompanies his/her recipient to a physical therapy appointment that is scheduled to last for a specified period of time. The provider is not required to remain on the premises but must return at a designated time to retrieve the recipient. Additionally, the amount of time of the appointment is sufficient for the provider to effectively engage in personal activities, either on the premises or not, such as reading a book, etc.