CHILDREN'S KIDNEY FUND
Guidelines on Subsidies/Allowances for Children Kidney Patients (updated April 2026)

TYPE OF SUBSIDY	LEVEL OF SUBSIDY	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	APPLICATION PROCEDURES	FORMAT OF PAYMENT
Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD) Programme – APD cassettes,	1. 75% cost of the APD cassettes for the APD programme. 2. Maximum subsidy up to HK$20,000 per case per calendar year.	1. Patients with kidney failure on APD programme. 2. Age 21 years or below.	- Application form to be completed with recommendation from the attending doctor.	- Patients to pay 25% of the cost for the APD cassette first. The Fund will pay the remaining 75% directly to the supplier.
APD Programme – Initial Set-up Cost	1. 50% of the initial set-up cost for the purchase of blood pressure monitor, electronic weighing machine and Titanium adaptor/outlet port clamps. 2. Maximum allowance of HK$1,000 per case.	1. Patients with kidney failure on APD Programme. 2. Age 21 years or below. 3. First time set-up for the Programme.	- Application form to be completed with recommendation from the attending doctor.	- On production of purchase receipts, the Fund will reimburse 50% of the cost to the patient, up to a maximum of HK$1,000. - Receipts must be submitted for reimbursement within 3 months of the subsidy approval.

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Travelling Allowance – Taxi Fees	- Maximum allowance of HK$10,000 per calendar year for taxi fees	1. Patients with kidney failure requiring travelling a few times per week to hospital for haemodialysis treatment. 2. Age 21 years or below. 3. Physical disability exists for going to hospital by public transport, except by taxi. 4. Family income below the most updated Median Monthly Domestic Household Income by Household Size (MMDHI).	- Application to be made with recommendation from both the attending doctor and the medical social worker.	- Subsidy to be reimbursed on production of taxi receipts. - Reimbursement claims must be made within 3 months of the trips. - Attendance at every treatment session claiming for subsidy should be certified by a doctor or a nurse.

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Travelling Allowance – Public Transport Fees	1. Children can be escorted by a parent/ guardian whose travel cost will also be subsidized. Travelling by public transport includes buses, MTR and minibuses. 2. Maximum allowance of HK$5,000 per calendar year.	1. Patients with kidney failure requiring traveling a few times per week to hospital for haemodialysis treatment. 2. Age 21 years or below. 3. Family income below the most updated MMDHI.	- Application to be made with recommendation from both the attending doctor and the medical social worker.	- Attendance at every treatment session claiming for subsidy should be certified by a doctor or a nurse. - On production of the certification of treatment attendance, amount of subsidy per trip as recommended in the approval reply will be reimbursed. - Receipt proving the travel is not required. However, reimbursement claims must be made within 3 months of the trips.
Subsidy for Rituximab/ Biosimilar to Rituximab	1. For patients with family income 100% of MMDHI or below: - 85% of the cost required for the actual no. of preparations and dosage prescribed by the doctors. 2. For patients with family income above 100% and below 130% of MMDHI:	1. Patients suffering from difficult glomerulonephritis (GN) as a result of steroid-dependent/resistant nephrotic syndrome (NS), lupus nephritis (LN) and severe vasculitis who fulfil the following criteria: (a) Nephrotic syndrome: - Patients with frequent relapses requiring	- Application form to be completed with recommendations from both the attending doctor and the medical social worker.	<u>EITHER</u> - Reimbursement of either 85% or 50% of the cost on production of official hospital receipts from the hospital pharmacy, as per the level of subsidy approved; and - Receipts for reimbursement must be

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	- 50% of the cost required for the actual no. of preparations and dosage prescribed by the doctors. 3. Each application is valid for two months only from the approval date. **<u>Remarks</u>:** a) For nephrotic syndrome (NS), the maximum no. of subsidy applications per patient is six. Maximum subsidy per patient per application is 2g, which consists of 1-2 doses to be given within 4 weeks. b) For lupus nephritis (LN) or patients with severe vasculitis resulting in glomerulonephritis(GN), the maximum subsidy application per patient is one application up to 2g, to be given in 1 or 2 doses within 4 weeks.	significant steroid dose (equivalent dose of prednisolone more than 0.5 mg/kg/day) despite the prior use of steroid-sparing agents, including Tacrolimus and/or MMF/cyclophosphamide/ cyclosporin A. (b) Lupus nephritis/ severe vasculitis resulting in GN - (c) . 2. Age 21 years or below. 3. Family income 130% or below of the most updated MMDHI.		submitted within 3 months after the drug purchase. <u>OR</u> - Patients to pay 15% or 50% of the cost to the hospital, and the Fund will settle the remaining balance directly with the hospital, as per the level of subsidy approved. (Patients will be advised on the exact format of payment upon the Fund's confirmation of subsidy approval and its level.)

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Subsidy for Obinutuzumab	1. For patients with family income 100% of MMDHI or below: - 85% of the cost required for the actual dosage prescribed by the doctors 2. For patients with family income above 100% and below 130% of MMDHI: - 50% of the cost required for the actual dosage prescribed by the doctors. 3. Only one dose of the medicine will be subsidized per calendar year. 4. Each application is valid for two months only from the approval date.	1. Patients suffering from complex nephrotic syndrome who fulfil the following criteria: (a) Steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome not brought into complete remission with the use of Rituximab. (b) Multi-drug dependent nephrotic syndrome with relapses despite use of 2 or more steroid-sparing agents. (c) Multi-drug resistant Systemic Lupus Erythematosis (SLE) with nephritis, with clinical relapses or active diseases despite the use of 2 or more steroid-sparing agents for over 6 months 2. Age 21 years or below. 3. Family income 130% or below of the most updated MMDHI. 4. Recommended by doctors of the Hong Kong Children's Hospital (HKCH) and assessed by a medical social worker on family income.	- Application form to be completed with recommendations from both the attending doctor and the medical social worker.	<u>EITHER</u> - Reimbursement of either 85% or 50% of the cost on production of official hospital receipts from the hospital pharmacy, as per the level of subsidy approved; and - Receipts must be submitted within 3 months after the drug purchase. <u>OR</u> - Patients to pay 15% or 50% of the cost to the hospital, and the Fund will settle the remaining balance directly with the hospital, as per the level of subsidy approved. (Patients will be advised on the exact format of payment upon the Fund's confirmation of subsidy approval and its level.)

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Subsidy for Sodium Zirconium Cyclosilicate – **Lokelma**	1. For patients with family income 100% of MMDHI or below: - 85% of the cost required for the actual no. of preparations and dosage prescribed by the doctors. 2. For patients with family income above 100% and below 130% of MMDHI: - 50% of the cost required for the actual no. of preparations and dosage prescribed by the doctors. 3. A maximum of 12 months of subsidy can be approved for each application. 4. Each application is valid for two months only from the approval date.	1. Patients suffering from CKD stage III to V, OR kidney failure on dialysis. 2. Serum Potassium consistently above 5.5 mmol/L - Despite combinations of potassium-lowering measures (including dietary control, use of diuretics, optimization of acid-base balance, and dialysis therapy). 3. Intolerant to polystyrene exchange resin - Do not respond to polystyrene exchange resin despite the maximized usage for 2-4 weeks. 4. Age 21 years or below. ~~5.~~ Family income 130% or below of the most updated MMDHI.	- Application form to be completed with recommendations from both the attending doctor and the medical social worker.	- Reimbursement of the drug cost on production of official receipts from the hospital pharmacy or destined local pharmacy, as per the level of subsidy approved; and - Receipts must be submitted within 3 months after the drug purchase.
Subsidy for C5 Inhibitors – **Eculizumab / Ravulizumab)**	1. For patients with family income 100% of MMDHI or below: - 100% of the cost required for the actual dosage prescribed by the doctors, capped at a maximum of	1. Patients diagnosed with Thrombotic Microangiopathy (TMA) AND severe kidney involvement, due to complement mediated TMA or secondary TMA resulting from other medical	- A completed application form supported by recommendations from both the attending doctor and	- The Fund will pay the approved subsidy amount to the hospital pharmacy directly, and the patient will be responsible for the

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	HK$70,000 as once off support to bridge over the need of the patient. 2. For patients with family income above 100% and below 130% of MMDHI: - 100% of the cost required for the actual dosage prescribed by the doctors, capped at a maximum of HK$50,000 as once off support to bridge over the need of the patient. 3. Each application is valid for two months only from the approval date.	conditions as evidenced by (a+b, OR c): (a) Plt count <150 x 10^9/L, (b) Hemolysis as evidenced by the presence of schistocytes / low haptoglobin / high LDH, (c) Tissue biopsy confirming TMA in patients without evidence of hemolysis or platelet consumption. 2. Patient is critically ill with major organ involvement and requires urgent therapy. 3. Age 21 years or below. 4. Family income 130% or below of the most updated MMDHI. 5. Recommended by doctors of HKCH and assessed by a medical social worker on family income.	the medical social worker, **AND** - A separate request letter from the attending doctor, jointly endorsed by the HKCH Nephrology Team, to be attached to the application form. The letter should clearly state the clinical necessity and urgency for the use of C5 inhibitors in this case.	balance of the total cost.
Subsidy for Anti-CD38 Monoclonal Antibody - **Daratumumab**	1. For patients with family income 100% of MMDHI or below: - 85% of the cost required for the actual dosage prescribed by the doctors	1. Patients suffering from complex nephrotic syndrome who fulfil the following criteria: (a) Steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome not brought into complete remission with	- Application form to be completed with recommendations from both the attending doctor and the medical social worker.	**EITHER** - Reimbursement of either 85% or 50% of the cost on production of official hospital receipts from the hospital pharmacy, as

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	2. For patients with family income above 100% and below 130% of MMDHI: - 50% of the cost required for the actual dosage prescribed by the doctors. 3. Only one dose of the medicine will be subsidized per calendar year. 4. Each application is valid for two months only from the approval date.	the use of Rituximab / Obinutuzumab; (b) Multi-drug dependent nephrotic syndrome with relapses despite use of 2 or more steroid-sparing agents which includes rituximab / obinutuzumab. 2. Age 21 years or below. 3. Family income 130% or below of the most updated MMDHI. 4. Recommended by doctors of HKCH and assessed by a medical social worker on family income.		per the level of subsidy approved; and - Receipts must be submitted within 3 months after the drug purchase. **<u>OR</u>** - Patients to pay 15% or 50% of the cost to the hospital, and the Fund will settle the remaining balance directly with the hospital, as per the level of subsidy approved. - (Patients will be advised on the exact format of payment upon the Fund's confirmation of subsidy approval and its level.)