

Major Medical Program Overview 2024

Purpose: This is a one-time program to help families who have large unpaid medical bills associated with spina bifida.

1. The expense must be related to spina bifida. You must be a member-in-good standing now. Also, you must have been a member-in-good standing when the expense occurred.
2. This program is limited to major medical expenses - - specifically, hospital or surgeon/physician expenses.
3. Our check will be made payable to the hospital or physician. However, if a collection agency is involved, we will make the check payable according to the collection agency's instructions.
4. This program will end when the funds are exhausted or whenever the Council decides to end it. The amount paid will be determined by the Council.
5. Not covered:
 - A. Minor expenses ("minor" is a balance under \$500)
 - B. Equipment
 - C. Supplies
6. You must use all of your Brace Fund money on this bill before you can request money from the Major Medical Program for the remainder of the bill.
7. Expenses incurred before January 1, 2024, are eligible. Expenses incurred after that day will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
8. Why are there limitations? This program is for catastrophic costs that cannot be controlled by the family, such as spinal fusion, shunt replacement, etc. Equipment and supplies are not covered because those kinds of items are generally not catastrophic, and the timing can normally be controlled by the family.
9. Are there exceptions to the rules? Perhaps. This is a new and untested program. We have established rules in an effort to prevent manipulation. If you have a special situation that you believe warrants an exception, you can ask for a ruling. The Council will decide the matter.