



Search Assistance Fund (SAF) Policies

The Search Assistance Fund (SAF) is a program of Be The Match® Patient Services, with funding from Be The Match Foundation®.

Program overview:

1. The purpose of the Search Assistance Fund is to allow qualifying patients to begin a search through the National Marrow Donor Program® without delays resulting from inadequate insurance coverage for search.
2. SAF requests must be approved prior to requesting the donors/cords for which funding is being sought.
3. SAF approvals are specific to search activities within specific countries/registries; they are not specific to donor or cord ID, however. If the activities or country/registry approved no longer match the search strategy, a revision can be issued. Revisions must also be approved *prior* to requesting new activities.
4. The amount of SAF approved is based on: available budget, the patient's search, and the patient's individual insurance/financial circumstances. The amount that can be approved can vary from patient to patient, and may vary throughout the fiscal year.
5. Approved SAF requests are not paid up front. If approved, a grant approval letter will be emailed, which will specify the search activities approved, as well as the amounts reimbursable to the transplant center for each activity. Only those items and amounts listed on the letter are reimbursable.
6. Applications are *generally* reviewed within 2 business days; unless there are questions or further follow-up needed, you will receive email notification within 5 business days of submitting an application.
7. No patient is guaranteed SAF, until notice of approval is given. Grant requests may be denied at any time.

Patient eligibility requirements:

1. U.S. resident
2. Patient has limited insurance and financial resources available to pay for search and procurement
3. Patient has, or is likely to soon have, sufficient insurance coverage for transplant
4. A preliminary search of the National Marrow Donor Program has been run by a network transplant center
5. High resolution typing has been entered into Traxis
6. NMDP transplant center verifies coverage and submits application *prior to requesting the donors or cords*

Eligible search activities:

1. Formal search activation
2. IR-DR testing of HLA-A, B typed donors; only approved if no fully typed donor options are available
3. CT samples tested at the transplant center: procurement of blood sample, typing, and IDM results
4. Customized typing (screening) through NMDP
5. Cord blood typing through the NMDP
6. Procurement, including workup costs (additional documentation from insurance company required)

Payment:

1. It is not unusual for insurance to pay for search activities, even after stating they will not. As such, please submit claims to insurance for the search. If necessary, SAF can be canceled or repaid, if insurance pays.
2. Grant payments will only be made for search activities that were approved, performed, and billed. The actual amount paid may be less than approved; unused funds *cannot be reallocated for any other purpose*.
3. Transplant center must request reimbursement using the "SAF Reimbursement Request" (sent with approval letters), within 6 full months of the approval, along with required documentation.