



EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY 49.07 NEAREST CENTRE PROCESS

Eligible Persons under the Schedule 5: Medical Travel of the *Extended Health Benefits Policy 49.07* (Policy) are eligible for travel to the Nearest Centre when travel is required to access Insured Health Services or Benefits not available in the Eligible Person's home community. Pursuant to section 5(2)(b)(iii) of the Policy, the following process for determining the Nearest Centre that is available to provide the Insured Health Services or Benefits is established by the Deputy Minister.

1. The Nearest Centre is:

- (1) The closest facility located in the Northwest Territories listed in Schedule A of the *Hospital Insurance Regulations (Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act)*;
- (2) A publicly funded facility located in the Edmonton region of Alberta, if a facility in 1(1) is not suitable;
- (3) A publicly funded facility in another location designated by the Department of Health and Social Services, if a facility in 1(2) is not suitable.

2. Terms and Conditions

- (1) Where the Nearest Centre is outside of the Northwest Territories and medical travel Benefits are requested by the Health Care Prescriber to a publicly funded facility beyond the Nearest Centre or to a facility that is not publicly funded:
 - (a) Additional Prior Approval is required in accordance with the process established under 5(2)(b)(vi) of the Policy; and
 - (b) A recommendation for approval by the clinical expertise established under 5(2)(b)(ii) of the Policy is required.

Alan Doody
Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services

Date