



EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY 49.07 PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS

Access to some Benefits under the *Extended Health Benefits Policy 49.07* (Policy) requires Prior Approval. Pursuant to section 5(2)(b)(vi) of the Policy, the following Prior Approval process is established by the Deputy Minister. Where Prior Approval is required, it must be granted **before** the start of any treatment or medical travel.

1. Schedule 1: Drug Benefits

(1) Prior Approval is required:

- (a) under 2(2) of Schedule 1 of the Policy to be eligible for reimbursement for a higher cost equivalent drug.
- (b) under 4 of Schedule 1 of the Policy to be eligible for exception drug coverage for drugs not on the *Northwest Territories Pharmacare Formulary*.

(2) Health Care Prescribers must send Prior Approval requests to Alberta Blue Cross using the [Exception Approval Drug Request form](#).

- (a) For benefits listed in 1(1)(a), the Health Care Prescriber must also provide evidence that the Eligible Person has experienced an adverse reaction with a lower cost equivalent drug product or tried all the lower cost equivalent drug products and failed to achieve a positive outcome.
- (b) For benefits listed in 1(1)(b), additional clinical justification is required when a Health Care Prescriber recommends a drug not on the *Northwest Territories Pharmacare Formulary*. Such justification must include evidence that the Eligible Person has tried all the lower cost equivalent approved drugs and failed to achieve a positive therapeutic outcome.

2. Schedule 2: Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits

(1) Prior Approval is required:

- (a) under 2(3) of Schedule 2 of the Policy to be eligible for replacement medical supplies and equipment outside their set replacement frequency.



- (b) under 2(4) of Schedule 2 of the Policy for all medical supplies and equipment without an established maximum price listed in the federal government's Non-Insured Health Benefits' *Maximum Price List*.

- (2) Health Care Prescribers must send Prior Approval requests to Alberta Blue Cross using the [Medical Supplies and Equipment Prior Approval form](#).

3. Schedule 3: Vision Care Benefits

- (1) Prior approval is required:
 - (a) under 2(3) of Schedule 3 of the Policy to be eligible for reimbursement of exceptional vision care costs due to a medical condition.
 - (b) under 2(4) of Schedule 3 of the Policy to be eligible for additional vision care in a designated calendar year due to a medical prescription change.
- (2) Health Care Prescribers must send Prior Approval requests to Alberta Blue Cross using the [Optical Prior Approval form](#).

4. Schedule 4: Dental Benefits

- (1) Prior Approval is required under 2(2)(a) of Schedule 4 of the Policy of the proposed treatment plan prior to starting treatment.
- (2) An assessment report and treatment plan prepared by a recognized Canadian Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic, including a proposed treatment plan and cost estimates, must be submitted by the clinic for Prior Approval to Health Services Administration at:

Email:	healthcarecard@gov.nt.ca
Regular mail:	Department of Health and Social Services Registrations Bag #9, Inuvik NT X0E 0T0
Fax:	1-867-777-3197

5. Schedule 5: Medical Travel Benefits

- (1) Unless specified otherwise in the Medical Travel Benefits established under 5(2)(b)(vii) of the Policy, Prior Approval is required under 2(1)(ii) of Schedule 5 of the Policy.



- (2) Prior Approval is required under 2(1) of the Nearest Centre Process established under 5(2)(b)(iii) of the Policy where the Nearest Centre is outside of the Northwest Territories and Medical Travel Benefits are requested to a publicly funded facility beyond the Nearest Centre or to a facility that is not publicly funded.
- (3) The Prior Approval requests must be submitted:
- (a) For Medical Travel Benefits under 5(1) of this Process,
 - (i) through the [Benefit Application Form](#) to the Medical Travel Office by the referring Health Care Prescriber or community health nurse, where Benefits are sought for travel initiating under 2(1)(a)(i) to (iii) of the Medical Travel Benefits established under 5(2)(b)(vii) of the Policy; or
 - (ii) through a Distribution Sheet to the Medical Travel Office by Med Response staff, where Benefits are sought for emergency travel initiated under 2(1)(a)(iv) of the Medical Travel Benefits established under 5(2)(b)(vii) of the Policy.
 - (b) For Medical Travel Benefits listed in 5(2) of this Process, through a [Request for Out of Territory Approval form](#) to the Health Service Administration Office.

Alan Doody
Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services

Date