



MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

Courtesy Privileges for Medical Officers of the Canadian Armed Forces MD 2026-05

1. Directive

Pursuant to section 3.2 of the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Act* (HIHSSA), Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Medical Officers may be appointed as Courtesy Practitioner Staff and granted a special case of Courtesy Privileges in accordance with Schedule A (attached) in order to access diagnostic services at territorial facilities, as defined in HIHSSA, for the purpose of providing medical care to CAF personnel at CAF-designated sites and facilities. The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services (NTHSSA) Medical and Professional Staff Bylaws and the NTHSSA Medical and Professional Staff Rules, each dated November 2020, shall not apply to Medical Officers of the CAF who are thus appointed as Courtesy Practitioner Staff.

2. Background

The Minister has the power to issue a directive to the Territorial board of management or a Board of Management in respect of any matter referred to in HIHSSA (section 3.2).

Under section 8(1)(e) of HIHSSA, the Territorial board of management may make bylaws respecting the granting, suspension and revocation of privileges in health facilities, as listed in the *Hospital Insurance Regulations*.

The NTHSSA Medical and Professional Staff Bylaws govern Physicians, Dentists, Nurse Practitioners, and Midwives that are seeking and receiving Appointments to the Practitioner Staff and the granting of Privileges at Health Care Facilities and Hospitals operated by the NTHSSA.

The NTHSSA Medical and Professional Staff Rules provide the means to implement and give effect to the Bylaws and govern the day-to-day management of Practitioner Staff.

Section 49 of the *Hospital and Health Care Facility Standard Regulations* state that a diagnostic imaging investigation in a hospital or health care facility may only be conducted by, or under the written instruction of, a member of the medical or professional staff.



3. Purpose

To establish the terms under which Courtesy Privileges may be granted to Medical Officers of the CAF by the NTHSSA.

4. Definitions

Courtesy Practitioner Staff, for the purpose of this Directive, means those Physicians who have been appointed to the category of Courtesy Practitioner Staff by the Territorial Medical Director in accordance with this Directive when the Applicant's sole commitment is to the CAF.

Facility means premises in or from which health services or social services are provided, and equipment in or associated with the premises, or associated with the provision of health services or social services from the premises.

Hospital means a facility approved by the Minister offering in-patient or out-patient services, or both, operated for the care of the diseased, injured or sick.

5. Exceptions

None.

6. Amendment

The Minister may amend this Directive from time to time.

7. Effective Date

This Directive comes into effect on date of signing.

8. Review of Directive

This Directive will be reviewed by the Department every 5 years.

<original signed by> _____

Lesla Semmler
Minister of Health and Social Services

June 8, 2026 _____

Date

Schedule A: Courtesy Privileges for Medical Officers of the Canadian Armed Forces



Schedule A: Courtesy Privileges for Medical Officers of the Canadian Armed Forces

The following shall apply for the limited purpose of the appointment of Medical Officers of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as Courtesy Practitioner Staff and the granting of Courtesy Privileges by the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA).

1. Appointment to the category of Courtesy Practitioner Staff:

1.1 In order for Medical Officers of the CAF to be appointed as Courtesy Practitioner Staff, the following must be provided:

- a) Proof of an active license or practice permit granted by a College or equivalent licensing body in a Canadian province or territory, in the form of a copy of the license or practice permit and/or direction to an online College directory where active registration can be confirmed;
- b) Attestation that Courtesy Privileges will be utilized only in the course of duties as a Medical Officer of the CAF; and
- c) Contact information for the applicant Medical Officer's supervisor or Senior Medical Officer (Base Surgeon, Wing Surgeon, or Regional Surgeon, as appropriate).

1.2 Medical Officers of the CAF may be appointed to the Courtesy Practitioner Staff by the Territorial Medical Director (TMD).

1.3 Applications for Courtesy Privileges under this process may receive final approval from the TMD or the Chair of the Territorial Application Review Committee (TARC), without requiring the review of the TARC as a whole.

1.4 Medical Officers of the CAF as members of the Courtesy Practitioner Staff shall have no voting rights and may not hold any office or be a voting member on any NTHSSA committee.

2. Use of Courtesy Privileges:

2.1 These Courtesy Privileges are for the sole purpose of allowing Medical Officers to access ("order") diagnostic services (laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging) at territorial facilities for the purpose of providing medical care to CAF personnel at CAF sites and facilities. Medical Officers are limited to providing medical care at



facilities and sites operated by CAF, which are exclusively under Federal jurisdiction.

2.2 Courtesy Privileges are not required for a Medical Officer to refer a patient under their care to a Family Physician or Specialist Physician working in territorial facilities, or to an Emergency Department in any territorial facility.

2.3 Notwithstanding any of the above, and as authorized by *the Queens Regulations and Orders for the Canadian Armed Forces Volume I – Chapter 34 Medical Services*, in an emergency situation and to save a person from death or serious harm, a Medical Officer may perform such necessary medical care as is within their scope of practice on any person, whether CAF personnel or civilian.

3. Maintenance of Courtesy Privileges:

3.1 Medical Officers of the CAF will be provided with a yearly Information Verification and Attestation (IVA), which must be completed and returned with proof of ongoing licensure in a Canadian province or territory.

3.2 The IVA will be used to verify that the Medical Officer's practice continues to comply with the terms set out in Ministerial Directive 2026-05. If the IVA is not completed by the specified deadline, or if the terms are not met, the Courtesy Privileges will expire.

4. Suspension of Courtesy Privileges:

4.1 If there are reasonable grounds to believe the Medical Officer is not in compliance with Ministerial Directive 2026-05, the NTHSSA retains the right to suspend Privileges. The Medical Officer will be informed of the suspension, and the NTHSSA will refer the concern for investigation and other management to the Medical Officer's identified supervisor or Senior Medical Officer.

5. Addressing Concerns:

5.1 Complaints or concerns with respect to a Medical Officer's use of diagnostic services will be referred by the TMD to the Medical Officer's identified supervisor or Senior Medical Officer, to be addressed exclusively within CAF processes.