



MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

Medical Travel Benefit Administration MD 2026-01

1. Directive

The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) is delegated to implement and administer the NWT Medical Travel Policy (49.06) and associated Ministerial Policies on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services, with the exception of the Appeal Process Policy and the Exceptions Policy.

The NTHSSA is also delegated the administration of the Government of Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program – Medical Transportation Benefit, on behalf of and under the terms of the Contribution Agreement between the Department of Health and Social Services and Indigenous Services Canada (Contribution Agreement) and in accordance with the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#).

For clarity:

- The NWT Medical Travel Policy (49.06) and corresponding Ministerial Policies applies to eligible clients of:
 - NWT Extended Health Benefits Policy (49.07)
- The NWT Medical Travel Policy (49.06) and corresponding Ministerial Policies **do not** apply to eligible clients of the following programs:
 - Government of Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits
 - NWT Métis Health Benefits (MHB) Policy (49.01)

Benefits available under the NWT Medical Travel Policy (49.06) and the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#) are different.

For clarity, specific to differences regarding non-medical escort benefits:



- In administering the NIHB Program - Medical Transportation Benefit for eligible residents, the NTHSSA is to provide non-medical escorts for eligible residents in accordance with the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#).
- NTHSSA is to apply the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#) when adjudicating requests for medical travel for insured and non-insured health services for eligible NIHB residents in the NWT, including processing eligible non-medical escort requests, in accordance with the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#), when the NIHB office is closed. The NTHSSA must also obtain required approval documentation from the NIHB office to facilitate billing, which is understood to be occasionally after travel has occurred.

Residents eligible for benefits under the Métis Health Benefits Policy (49.01) are entitled to the same benefits outlined in the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#) with the exception of the additional levels of appeal. For eligible MHB residents, appeals are treated in alignment with the NWT Medical Travel Policy – Ministerial Policy -Appeal Process.

- For greater clarity, the NTHSSA is to provide non-medical escort benefits to residents eligible for the Métis Health Benefits Policy (49.01), in accordance with the [NIHB Medical Transportation Policy Framework](#).

The NTHSSA is required to report on medical travel benefit administration in a mutually agreed upon timeframe to allow the Department of Health and Social Services to report annually to the public.

This Directive rescinds Ministerial Directive 2024-01 – Medical Travel Ministerial Policies signed on January 23, 2024.

2. Purpose

The Medical Travel Benefit Administration provides the framework for the NTHSSA to implement, administer, and report on medical travel benefits, excluding appeals and exceptions which are retained by the Department of Health and Social Services.

3. Definitions

No definitions.

4. Exceptions

No exceptions.



5. Amendment

The Minister may amend this Directive from time to time.

6. Effective Date

This Directive comes into effect on the date of signing.

7. Expiration Date

This Directive is in effect, as amended from time to time, until it is repealed by the Minister.

8. Review of Directive

This Directive will be reviewed by the Department annually.

<original signed by> _____

Lesa Semmler
Minister of Health and Social Services

February 17, 2026 _____

Date