



## MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

### Medical Travel Ministerial Policies

**MD 2024-01**

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#### 1. Directive

This Directive is issued to formalize the delegation of the implementation and administration of the NWT Medical Travel program to the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services. The NWT Medical Travel program includes all residents of the NWT, including those in the Hay River and Tłı̨chǫ regions.

This Directive also formalizes the delegation of the administration of the Government of Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Medical Travel program for the Northwest Territories, on behalf of and under the terms of the agreement between the Department of Health and Social Services and Indigenous Services Canada.

For greater certainty:

- The NWT Medical Travel Policy and corresponding Ministerial Policies also apply to eligible clients of the following programs:
  - GNWT Extended Health Benefits
  - GNWT Métis Health Benefits
- The NWT Medical Travel Policy and corresponding Ministerial Policies **do not** apply to clients of the Government of Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits program.

This Directive rescinds Ministerial Directive 2019-06 – Medical Travel Ministerial Policies signed on May 31, 2019.

#### 2. Purpose

The Medical Travel Ministerial Policies provide the framework for implementing and administering the Medical Travel program. The implementation and administration of the



Ministerial Policies, excluding the Appeal Process Policy and the Exceptions Policy, is delegated to the NTHSSA by the Deputy Minister.

The Directive also serves to establish reporting requirements in accordance with the Executive Council Medical Travel Policy (49.06), s.5(2)(a)(v) and s.5(2)(b)(ii). To this end, the NTHSSA will report Medical Travel program usage rates and exceptions in a mutually agreed upon timeframe to allow the Department of Health and Social Services to report annually to the public.

### **3. Definitions**

**Medical Travel Ministerial Policies** means the Appeal Process Policy, Benefits Policy, Eligibility Criteria Policy, Escort Criteria Policy, and Exceptions Policy, as amended from time to time.

**Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority** means the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority established under section 5(1) of the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Service Administration Act*.

### **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 every 5 years.

<original signed by>

Lesa Semmler  
Minister of Health and Social Services

January 31, 2024

Date