



MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

Health Care for Transgender, Non-Binary, and Gender Nonconforming People: Guidelines for the Northwest Territories MD 2020-04

1. Background

Patients in the Northwest Territories (NWT) who identify as being transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming are known to be vulnerable for a variety of clinical, social, and other reasons. To support health care providers in the provision of health care services to transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming patients, the Department of Health and Social Services has developed the *Health Care for Transgender, Non-Binary, and Gender Nonconforming People: Guidelines for the Northwest Territories*.

2. Purpose

This Ministerial Directive requires that all Health and Social Services Authorities refer to the *Health Care for Transgender, Non-Binary, and Gender Nonconforming People: Guidelines for the Northwest Territories* when providing health care services to transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming patients.

The Guidelines establish a clear referral process for transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming health care services for NWT residents, such as hormone therapy and gender-affirming surgery.

The Guidelines set out the transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming health care services that are covered by the NWT Health Care Plan, such as mastectomy and genital surgery.

The Guidelines also include an overview of our commitment to cultural safety and identify health care provider responsibilities, such as practicing relationship-based care, trauma-informed care, and gender-affirming care, and recognizing how unconscious bias may influence patient treatment.

The Guidelines may be amended from time to time to ensure they reflect emerging changes in care of patients with gender dysphoria. This Ministerial Directive applies to the most current version of the Guidelines in effect.

3. Definitions

Health and Social Services Authorities means the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority and Boards of Management established under the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*.

4. Exceptions

None.

5. Amendment

This Directive may be amended in writing by the Minister from time to time.

6. Effective Date

This Ministerial Directive comes into effect on the date of signing by the Minister.

7. Expiration Date

This Ministerial Directive is in effect, as amended from time to time, until it is repealed by the Minister.

<original signed by>

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

December 16, 2020

Date