



MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

Remote Locum Tenens Contract MD 2022-02

1. Directive

This Ministerial Directive requires that all Health and Social Services Authorities use the Remote Locum Tenens Contract when physicians who are Remote Locum Practitioners are required to provide medical services. The Remote Locum Tenens Contract is attached as Appendix 1.

This Directive also requires that all Health and Social Services Authorities pay Remote Locum Practitioners based on the rates set out Schedule 2 of the Remote Locum Tenens Contract.

2. Background

On March 25, 2020 under section 33(1)(e) of the *Public Health Act* the Chief Public Health Officer authorized the Chief Executive Officers and the Territorial Medical Director to add a Schedule 3 to the standardized Locum Tenens Contract, specifically for telehealth/virtual care. That authorization was in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared March 18, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That authorization expired March 31, 2022, when the declared public health emergency was lifted.

At the time of the authorization of the Chief Public Health Officer, on March 25, 2020, the standardized Locum Tenens Contract was set out in *Locum Tenens Contract Ministerial Directive MD 2019-01*.

Health and Social Services Authorities rely on locum tenens physicians to provide medical services when permanent physicians are not available. The health system is currently experiencing a shortage of providers, including medical practitioners. Remote locum practitioners are needed to provide medical services, including on call services.

3. Purpose

Consistent application of the Remote Locum Tenens Contract is essential to ensure stable and predictable physician resources across the Northwest Territories and throughout the Health and Social Services System.



4. Definitions

Facility means

- (a) premises in or from which health services or social services are provided, and
- (b) equipment in or associated with the premises, or associated with the provision of health services or social services from the premises

Health and Social Services Authorities means the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority established under section 5(1), a Board of Management established under section 10(1) or referred to in subsection 10.2 or 10.3 of the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*, or an organization, agency or firm contracted by the Minister pursuant to section 17 of the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Service Administration Act*.

Remote Locum Practitioner means a medical practitioner licensed under the *Medical Profession Act* who provides medical services through virtual means while residing outside of the Northwest Territories, and meets the following criteria:

- (a) Has previously been employed by a Health and Social Services Authority, or previously had a locum tenens contract with a Health and Social Services Authority, and
- (b) Is familiar with the health system in the Northwest Territories.

5. Exceptions

None

6. Amendment

The Minister may amend this Directive from time to time.

7. Effective Date

This Directive comes into effect on July, 4, 2022.

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8. Expiry

This Directive expires on March 31, 2023.

<original signed by>
Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

July 6, 2022
Date