

Visitors to the NWT EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAVEL



Know the Facts

“OUR AMBULANCES HAVE WINGS – DO YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL TRAVEL HEALTH INSURANCE?”

Introduction

Injuries and accidents can happen at any time. If you are in an accident or become ill while visiting the NWT and need emergency medical travel, **you could be responsible for 100% of the travel cost.** Transportation to the nearest medical clinic or hospital will be billed back to you. This can be expensive. It is wise to purchase travel health insurance before your trip, but read the fine print – there are limits to your coverage.

General Information

If you are a resident of Canada visiting the NWT, be aware that your provincial or territorial health plan will not cover all medical travel expenses that are incurred away from your home province.

Generally, provincial/territorial health care plans cover the costs for the services the physician provides and the facility fees in a hospital for inpatient and outpatient visits. Most jurisdictions in Canada do not cover medical travel services when the travel originates outside of their province or territory.

International visitors to Canada are not eligible for NWT health care coverage.

If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at 1-855-846-9601. Si vous voulez ces renseignements dans une autre langue officielle, communiquez avec nous au 1-855-846-9601.

Emergency Medical Travel

NWT communities are often geographically remote from one another with no road access and may not offer all medically necessary insured health services. Therefore, in some instances, emergency transports are performed by an air ambulance. The cost of an emergency response is very high.

If you require emergency medical travel, you could be responsible for expenses such as:

- Air ambulance service (average cost from Yellowknife to Edmonton is \$25,000)
- Medical flight personnel such as a nurse or physician
- Ground ambulance service

Once you are discharged, you may also need to arrange your own travel to get back to your home community.



Before You Travel

If you do not feel that your coverage is adequate, consider purchasing supplemental health insurance before your trip.

Travel insurance is available from private insurance companies/providers throughout the NWT and Canada. Ask a bank or travel agent to arrange travel insurance for you. If you are using a vehicle, talk to your car insurer.

You should consider travel coverage for, but not limited to:

- Air or ground ambulance
- Medical and Hospital charges
- Illness
- Accidents
- Disability
- Escort and/or interpreter services
- Travel, meals and lodging for your escort

Even if you have supplementary insurance and car insurance, emergency medical travel costs could likely exceed your coverage limits.

Once you purchase this additional insurance, make sure you have the insurance documentation with you in case of emergency.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
Territorial Manager, Medical Travel
Northwest Territories Health
and Social Services Authority**

Phone: (867) 765-4007
Fax: (867) 920-2172