



INSURED HEALTH & HEARING SERVICES OUT OF TERRITORY - MEDICAL TRAVEL BY VEHICLE POLICY	
Section: Out of Territory - Medical Travel By Vehicle (Medical Travel Program)	Policy #: MT001
Date Issued: July 2020 Dates Revised: April 2016, October 2016, April 2017, October 2017, April 2018, October 2018, April 2017, October 2019	Review Date: October 2021 (Annual review date)
Legislative Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon Travel for Medical Treatment Act (and Regulations) • Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan Act • Yukon Health Information and Privacy Management Act (HIPMA) • Yukon Temporary Absence from Yukon policy • Canada Health Act (and Regulations) 	

DEFINITIONS

Authorized Practitioner: a physician, nurse practitioner or primary health nurse in charge as authorized to make referrals for medical travel.

Chief Medical Officer: the person appointed by the Commissioner in Executive Council as the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Yukon and includes the Chief Medical Officer of health's authorized deputy.

Director: the director of the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan.

Eligible Individuals: a person who is eligible for and entitled to insured health services as defined in the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan Act.

Eligible Individual - Exceptions: those clients and their families who are insured through an Act of Parliament (i.e. Status First Nations, members of the Armed Forces, RCMP, Canada Post, Parks Canada, Federal Public Service and Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) applicants) are not eligible for travel for medical treatment as defined in the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan Act. (These individuals are covered by their own medical travel benefits and includes WCB applicants.)

Emergency Travel: travel necessitated by a medical emergency.



Hospital Transfer: medical travel initiated by the discharge of a patient from one hospital and ending with the admission of the same patient in a second hospital.

IHHS: the Insured Health and Hearing Services Branch.

Insured Health Services: those services set out as insured services within the *Health Care Insurance Plan Act* and the *Hospital Insurance Services Act*.

Medical Emergency: an unforeseen medical condition involving a person's physical or mental health that requires immediate medical intervention.

Medical Travel: travel originating within Yukon that is required to allow eligible persons access to necessary insured health care services within or outside of Yukon.

Non-Emergency Service: medical service that is required for the well-being of a patient, but is not considered a medical emergency.

Non-Resident: a person who does not normally reside in Yukon.

Scheduled Airfare: the actual airfare paid for a flight. Airfare bookings are based on the most cost-effective and medically appropriate options available for a patient.

Subsidy: means an amount of \$75 per day to assist with the cost of meals and accommodation for insured residents on medical travel based on outpatient services which may be paid for each day after the second approved day.

Travel Escort: a person approved to accompany an eligible person on medical travel pursuant to the *Medical Travel Escorts Policy (MT007 - December 2019)*.

YHCIP: the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan.

Yukon Resident: a person who is lawfully entitled to be in Canada, ordinarily resides in Yukon, has a valid Yukon healthcare card and makes the territory their home. (Resident status does not apply to a tourist, transient or visitor to Yukon.)

POLICY

Process Overview:

- All medical travel out of Yukon must be certified by an authorized practitioner and approved by the Medical Travel Office in advance of travel.



- All vehicle travel **must originate** within Yukon.
- The authorized practitioner submits an **In-Territory** and/or **Out-of-Territory Medical Travel Application** form on behalf of the patient (and a travel escort if applicable) for review by the Medical Officer of Health.
- Once the application is approved, a Medical Travel Officer will contact the patient to arrange vehicle travel and explain program coverage.
- If the medical service required is unavailable in Yukon, travel will be arranged to Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary or another Gateway location as determined by the Medical Officer of Health.
- Upon return to Yukon, the patient may submit a completed **Out-of-Territory Medical Travel Subsidy** form for reimbursement of travel expenses for outside the territory. This subsidy amount is \$75 per day beginning on the second day away from Yukon.
- An **Out-of-Territory Medical Travel Via Road to Scheduled Appointments** also needs to be filled out and submitted with subsidy to receive subsidy for mileage.
- The Director determines the amount that a resident will receive according to section 5(c) of the Regulations (“Where the patient chooses to travel by private automobile, and allowance may be paid at the rate prescribed by the director”).
- Effective October 1, 2019 until September 30, 2020, the medical travel amount for a round trip by vehicle to Edmonton, Calgary or Vancouver will be \$429.30.

Two travel scenarios:

1. Individual choosing not to fly:

- Eligible individuals, who are approved for medical travel outside of Yukon and choose to drive instead of fly to their medical appointment, are entitled to a mileage payment instead of a purchased airline ticket.
- The mileage payment will be paid at the ‘annual average airfare’ amount predetermined by the Director.
- The subsidy will be paid as if a patient had traveled by air.



2. Individual cannot fly due to medical reasons:

- Eligible individuals, who are approved for medical travel outside of Yukon and cannot fly due to medical reasons to their medical appointment, are entitled to a mileage payment instead of a purchased airline ticket.
- The mileage payment will be paid at the 'annual average airfare' amount predetermined by the Director.
- A medical note from a physician stating the reason for the air restriction is required.
- A maximum of three days each direction (six days in total) of \$75/day subsidy will be paid for the additional days required to drive to the appointment city and return. (This is additional to the eligible \$75 per day subsidy.)

Travel Escorts:

- All requests for a travel escort must be pre-approved by the Medical Travel Unit.
- Reference: **Medical Travel Escorts Policy (#MT007)**

Exceptions/Exclusions:

- Medical travel originating outside of Yukon is not eligible within this policy.

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- Medical travel originating outside of Yukon is not eligible within this policy.
- Any exceptions to this policy must be pre-approved by the Director.

Appeals:

- Appeals are to be sent in writing to the Director of Insured Health and Hearing Services for review. Letters should be addressed as follows:

Director, Insured Health and Hearing Services (H-2)
Department of Health and Social Services
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A2C6



Questions:

- Patients may direct any questions concerning this policy to a Medical Travel Officer. Contact information is as follows:

Email: medicaltravel@gov.yk.ca
Phone: 867-667-5203 or 867-667-5233
Mail: Medical Travel
Health Services, H-2
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

FORMS

- *In-Territory Medical Travel Application*
- *Out-of-Territory Medical Travel Subsidy*
- *Out-of-Territory Medical Travel Via Road to Scheduled Appointments*

NOTES

- All requirements of the Acts and Regulations governing Yukon Health Care Insurance remain in effect.
- All decisions regarding interpretation will be referred to the Director of Insured Health and Hearing Services.

PLEASE BE ADVISED

- Ground and Air Ambulance services are not insured services under the Canada Health Act and are not covered by inter-provincial/territorial reciprocal agreements.
- The costs of these expenses while outside of Yukon is not covered by YHCIP, and you are advised to buy additional, private health insurance to supplement your basic coverage before you leave the territory.

APPROVED BY:

Marguerite Fenske, A/ Director
Insured Health and Hearing Services

Date: July 7, 2020