



INSURED HEALTH & HEARING SERVICES MEDICAL TRAVEL BY AIR POLICY	
Section: Medical Travel By Air (Medical Travel Program)	Policy #: MT002
Date Issued: July 2020 Dates Revised: October 2012, May 2013	Review Date: December 2021 (Review as needed.)
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.)

ELIGIBILITY

- This policy covers eligible individuals and their medically required and approved travel escorts insured under the *Travel for Medical Treatment Act (and Regulations)* and the *Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan Act* who are pre-approved to travel by air inside

and/or outside of Yukon to receive medically necessary treatment not available in their community.

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 airfare **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 air travel and explain program coverage.
- All patient departure and return flights will be selected based on the most cost effective and medically appropriate air travel in relation to the patient's medical treatment and/or medical appointments.
- 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.

Changing Flights:

- All air travel is booked on the most cost effective and medically appropriate flights available within the date range and medical guidelines regarding the patient's out-of-territory care and medical appointments.
- Any changes to issued tickets will only be covered by the Medical Travel Program when:
 - The Medical Travel Office receives a revised medical travel application form from the authorized practitioner detailing all appointments dates; or

- The Medical Travel Office receives notification by telephone or in writing from a social worker or hospital/clinic staff advising that an extension of coverage is medically necessary.
- The return flight will then be booked on the most cost effective flight available when medically appropriate for the patient to return to Yukon.
- Any extension of travel timelines based on a patient's personal reasons (either before or after the pre-determined dates and **longer than five personal days**) **will not be approved**.

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.

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*

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
Marguerite Fenske, A/ Director
Insured Health and Hearing Services

Date: July 7, 2020