



INSURED HEALTH & HEARING SERVICES MEDICAL TRAVEL ESCORTS POLICY	
<b>Section: Medical Travel Escorts Policy</b> (Medical Travel Program)	<b>Policy #:</b> MT007
<b>Date Issued:</b> December 2020	<b>Review Date:</b> December 2021 (Review as needed.)
<b>Legislative Authority:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yukon Travel for Medical Treatment Act (and Regulations)</li> <li>• Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan Act</li> <li>• Yukon Health Information and Privacy Management Act (HIPMA)</li> <li>• Yukon Temporary Absence from Yukon policy</li> <li>• Canada Health Act (and Regulations)</li> </ul>	

**DEFINITIONS**

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

**Chief Medical Officer of Health:** 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.

**Cognitive impairment:** a medical disorder whereby a person has trouble remembering, learning new things, concentrating, or making decisions that affect their everyday life.

**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, including WCB applicants.)



**Emergency travel:** travel necessitated by a medical emergency.

**Genetic disorder:** a disorder that is caused by an abnormality in a person's DNA.

**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*.

**Intubation:** a medical procedure where a tube is placed into the windpipe (trachea) through the mouth or nose.

**Medevac:** medical evacuation by air ambulance for the purpose of emergency medical treatment.

**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 provide eligible persons with access to necessary insured health care services within or outside of Yukon.

**Minor:** a person under the age of nineteen years of age.

**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:** the annually set amount meant to assist with the cost of meal, accommodations, and other expenses incurred while on Medical Travel.

**Travel escort:** a person approved to accompany an eligible person on medical travels.



**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 health care card and makes the territory his/her/their home. (Resident status does not apply to a tourist, transient or visitor to the Yukon.)

## POLICY

### **Process Overview:**

- To be eligible, a person must be registered under the Yukon *Health Care Insurance Plan Act* and not be eligible to receive medical travel benefits from another program or service.
- Requests for an escort will be reviewed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, their authorized deputy, or Director in reference to this policy and the relevant regulations.
- All requests for approval of an escort must be made on the Medical Travel Application and signed and submitted by an authorized practitioner. Relevant medical and contextual information should be included in the application.
- Requests for an escort made by a specialized practitioner, which clearly outline the medical need or requirement for the escort, will be approved.
- An escort's travel is to originate in Yukon unless otherwise approved by the Director.
- Any additional days that a patient and approved escort are out of the territory and not on medical travel status are considered personal days. and therefore traveller's insurance is strongly recommended.

### **Travel by Medevac:**

- If the eligible person travels by medevac, an escort will be only be automatically approved if the eligible person is a minor, is intubated and/or needs to be admitted to an Intensive Care Unit or a Cardiac Care Unit.

### **Eligibility:**

- If the eligible Yukoner is a minor.
- If the person has a mental or physical disability and an authorized practitioner determines the person is unable to travel unassisted.



- If the person requires an escort for interpretation between English and another language. The availability of professional interpretive services will be considered in deciding if a travel escort is required for interpretation.
- If the person has been intubated (with the exception of the eligible person only being intubated for the purpose of travel). Exception requests may be sent in writing to the Director.
- If the person is a parent who is breastfeeding a child up to twelve months of age and is attending a medically necessary procedure that will prevent the parent from feeding their child.
- If the person is pregnant and the fetus is being tested for a genetic disorder.

### **Admission to Intensive Care Unit or a Cardiac Care Unit:**

- An escort will be approved for up to fifteen days if the eligible person has been admitted to an Intensive Care Unit or a Cardiac Care Unit.
- Requests for additional time will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Director.

### **Medically Necessary Travel for Childbirth:**

- An escort will be approved for up to 15 days for a pregnant person who has to leave their home community to give birth.

### **Requirements for Two Travel Escorts:**

- If the eligible person is a child up to twenty-four months of age who is admitted to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.
- If the eligible person is a minor and is being tested for a genetic disorder.
- If the eligible persons are two or more children under twenty-four months of age and from the same family are travelling together by air and will each be receiving medical treatment during the same trip.

### **Exceptions/Exclusions:**

- Medical travel originating outside of the 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 the Manager, Medical Travel. Contact information is as follows:

**Email:** [medicaltravel@gov.yk.ca](mailto: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

- **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.

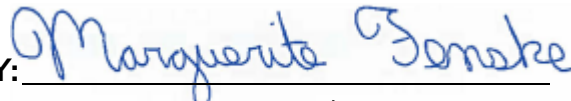


**PLEASE BE ADVISED**

While on personal status:

- 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 are not covered by YHCIP; Yukoners are advised to buy additional, private health insurance to supplement their basic coverage before leaving the territory.

APPROVED BY:



Marguerite Fenske, A/ Director  
Insured Health and Hearing Services

**Date:** December 15, 2020