

INSURED HEALTH SERVICES MIDWIFE- INTERIM POLICY	
Section: Medical Travel	Policy: MT009I
Date Issued: April 15, 2021	Review Date: September 15, 2022
Date Revised:	

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.

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 Yukon Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety 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.

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

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.

Midwife: Registered or Licensed Midwives are health-care professionals who specialize in normal birth and client-centred maternity care. A midwife is highly trained and is fully responsible for the health care they provide to clients within the midwifery scope of

practice. Midwives recognize the pregnant person as the primary decision maker in their health care and promote collaborative decision making that provides evidence based information and prioritizes a pregnant person's lived experience, values, and beliefs. Midwives are the only health care professionals who offer midwifery care.

Midwifery: Evidence-based primary care provided to a pregnant person and their baby during pregnancy, labour, birth, and the postpartum period, based on the midwifery scope of practice in the jurisdiction in which registered midwifery services are received.

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 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 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.)

PURPOSE:

As midwifery births by a Registered Midwife are not currently available in Yukon, this temporary policy is to provide travel and subsidy for the pregnant individual and their partner/escort to travel to another jurisdiction in Canada to access publically funded midwifery services during the interim period of April 15, 2021 – October 14, 2022.

ELIGIBILITY:

This policy covers eligible individuals 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 or land outside of Yukon to receive publically funded midwifery services; as well as their approved travel escorts.

POLICY:

- All medical travel out of Yukon must be certified by an authorized practitioner and approved by the Medical Travel Office in advance of travel.
- The authorized practitioner submits a **Medical Travel Application** form for out of territory travel on behalf of the patient (and requests an escort if applicable) for review by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- In addition to the application for medical travel from a qualified medical practitioner in Yukon, prior approval will need to be submitted to by a Registered Midwife in the other jurisdiction to provide confirmation that they have the ability to bill Yukon reciprocally.
- Once the application is approved, a Medical Travel Officer will contact the patient to arrange scheduled air travel.
- Eligible pregnant individuals will be entitled to a daily subsidy up to a maximum of 28 days prior to birth and 7 days post partum. Exceptions will be reviewed for additional coverage on a case by case basis if requested by an authorized practitioner or Registered Midwife. All requests for an exception will need to be approved in advance by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Approved travel escorts will be eligible for the daily subsidy up to a maximum of 15 days.
- Any requests for additional family members will not be approved, and therefore their additional travel costs would be the sole responsibility of the individual.
- For subsidy payment, the eligible individual must submit a completed **Medical Travel Subsidy Form** clearly indicating the individual's departure and return dates from home community and verifying that medical services were received. The individual has one calendar year to submit this form to Insured Health Services.
- 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 travel insurance is strongly recommended.

PLEASE BE ADVISED

While not on medical travel 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 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.

Travel Escorts:

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

Appeals:

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

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

Questions:

- Eligible Yukon individuals may direct any questions concerning this policy to the Manager, Medical Travel. Contact information is as follows:

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



FORMS

- Medical Travel Subsidy

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shauna Demers", written over a horizontal line.

Shauna Demers,
Director, Insured Health Services

Date: January 12, 2022