



<b>INSURED HEALTH &amp; HEARING SERVICES OUT-OF-TERRITORY TRANSPORTATION POLICY</b>	
<b>Section: Out-of-Territory-Transportation Policy</b> (Medical Travel Program)	<b>Policy #:</b> MT011
<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>• <i>Yukon Travel for Medical Treatment Act</i> (and Regulations)</li> <li>• <i>Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Yukon Health Information and Privacy Management Act (HIPMA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Yukon Temporary Absence from Yukon policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Canada Health Act</i> (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.

**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.

**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 provide eligible persons with 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:** 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.)

## **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 inside and/or outside of Yukon to receive medically necessary treatment not available in their community; as well as their required and approved medical travel escorts.



## 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 and Hearing 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.

### **Policy Specifics:**

#### **One-way Airfares**

- If an eligible individual is combining medical travel with personal travel , the Director may approve one-way airfare originating in Yukon.
- Patient requests to return to a two-way airfare (after the one-way airfare has been booked) will be declined.

#### **Booking and Changes to Flights:**

- All air travel is booked on the most appropriate flights available in relation to the patient's medical treatment and/or appointments, taking into consideration the costs to the patient, escort, and Government of Yukon.



- Any changes to issued tickets will only be covered by the Medical Travel Program when the Medical Travel Unit receives notification by telephone or in writing from a social worker or hospital or clinic staff advising that an extension of a patient's stay is medically necessary.
- Changes to airfare for personal reasons will be the responsibility of, and at the expense of, the patient.

## **PLEASE BE ADVISED**

While no longer 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 approved by the Medical Travel Unit.
- Reference: ***Medical Travel Escorts Policy*** (#MT007)

## **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:**

- 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](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***

## **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.

**APPROVED BY:**



Marguerite Fenske, A/ Director  
Insured Health and Hearing Services

**Date:** December 15, 2020