
	CLIENT TRAVEL POLICY GUIDELINES	Page 1 of 2
	Client Travel Approval Process	
		Section No: 3

1.00 INTRODUCTION

The Department of Health and Social Services provides travel benefits to eligible clients who must travel in order to access necessary health and/or social services that are not available in their home community. The Client Travel Policy deals with travel eligibility and benefits offered by the Nunavut Health Care Plan or various Social Service Acts and Programs. However, medical travel and benefit entitlements are also available through: Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), Extended Health Benefits, Indigent Health Benefits, WCB, GN employee health benefits and other third-party insurance programs.

2.00 BENEFITS FOR ELIGIBLE CLIENTS

- (1) When the nearest Approved Centre for necessary and appropriate insured health services is in Nunavut and the client chooses to travel to another centre, travel benefits will only be provided to the nearest Approved Centre.
- (2) When the nearest Approved Centre for necessary and appropriate insured health services is outside Nunavut and the client chooses to travel to another centre, intercommunity travel benefits will only be provided to the nearest Approved Centre.
- (3) The Government of Nunavut is a payer of last resort. This means that all other possible sources of funding must be used first.
- (4) Subject to the co-payment, if applicable, the benefits cover the following forms of transportation:
 - (i) Scheduled aircraft at economy airfare.
 - (ii) Charter aircraft in emergency situations or when chartered aircraft is a reasonable and cost-effective alternative to scheduled aircraft.
 - (iii) Ground transportation when required to transfer a client from one health facility to another.
 - (iv) The cost of travel to get a client who becomes seriously ill or badly injured on the land to the nearest health facility (subject to detailed provisions in the Guidelines).

	CLIENT TRAVEL POLICY GUIDELINES	Page 2 of 2
	Client Travel Approval Process	
		Section No: 3

3.00 APPROVAL PROCESS

Practitioners determine the care a client requires and whether travel is required to the nearest approved centre in order to receive appropriate care. Practitioners must ensure the approval process is applied fairly and consistently across the territory, while at the same time making sure the health and/or social needs of the client are met.

4.00 DIRECTIVE

- (1) A client who is breastfeeding an infant (child less than two years old) may travel with the infant, unless the medical treatment would prohibit breastfeeding or pose a health risk to the infant. The infant should be included on the Travel Warrant and the boarding home should be advised.

Note: Effective March 31, 2008 all passengers who appear to be 12 years of age or older will be required to show government issued photo ID (passport, drivers license, etc.), or two pieces of non-photo government issued ID (birth certificate), with at least one piece showing their date of birth, prior to boarding any screened flight

For additional information about the client travel approval process individuals can contact the Department of Health and Social Services at:

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Health Insurance Programs
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