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1. Introduction

- (a) The Department of Health (Health) provides travel benefits to eligible Clients who must travel in order to access necessary Health Services that are not available in their home community.
- (b) Eligibility criteria can be found in Section 6.2(a) of the Health Services Medical Travel Policy.

2. Benefits for Eligible Clients

- (a) Health is a payer of last resort. Medical Travel benefits (both scheduled and Medevac) are provided only to Clients who do not have access to Medical Travel benefits through an employer, an insuring body, or some other program. Clients who are employed (or the dependant of an employee) and are in possession of Medical Travel benefits through their employer, will be required to use their employer insurance first.
- (b) Subject to the Co-payment, if applicable, the benefits cover the following forms of transportation to and from the nearest Approved Centre:
 - (i) Scheduled aircraft at economy airfare;
 - (ii) Charter aircraft when it is a reasonable and cost-effective alternative to scheduled travel;
 - (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 provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding between Health and the Department of Community and Government Services); and
 - (v) Access to emergency or specialized care necessitating a Medevac. Subject to safety requirements and space, a Nunavut Practitioner may request a Client Escort for an Infant, Child or unilingual Inuit language speaking Client on a Medevac.
- (c) Approved travel will commence on the flight immediately prior to the Client's appointment. Once cleared to return home, Clients will be returned to their originating community through the most economical transportation mode available immediately after their final appointment.

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3. Approval

- (a) Nunavut Practitioners determine the care a Client requires and initiate a referral to the nearest Approved Centre to ensure that the Client receives appropriate care.
- (b) If the Client is a ward of the Director Child and Family Services, the Director Child and Family Services's approval is required prior to travel. If the Client is a ward of the Public Guardian, the Public Guardian's approval is required prior to travel.

4. Directive

- (a) A Client who is breastfeeding an Infant may travel with the Infant, unless the medical treatment would prohibit breastfeeding or pose a health risk to the Infant. Child care while the Client is attending the appointment is the responsibility of the Client. Clients traveling for confinement are not allowed to bring an Infant.

5. Co-payment

- (a) The amount of the Co-payment shall be determined by the Minister

6. Air Transportation Benefits – Return of a Body

- (a) If a Client, a Client Escort, or a Medical Escort dies while on approved travel, the following is covered:
 - (i) The body will be prepared to meet minimum airline regulations; and
 - (ii) The body will be transported to the Nunavut community of residence in the most economical way and in the most economical casket that meets airline standards.
- (b) At the request of the family and with prior approval from a Director, the body can be returned to a community other than where the deceased last resided as long as there is no extra cost to Health.