



# **MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE**

## **Department of Health and Social Services**

### **Interim Measure Respecting the Medical Travel Policy MD: 2003-01**

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#### **1. Background**

The Supplementary Health Benefit (SHB) programs are the subject of a comprehensive review to address concerns that have been raised by the public and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Policy gaps that have already been identified include the co-payment for lower income families and patient boarding under the Medical Travel Policy. Lower income is defined for the purposes of this Interim Measure as being a family income of less than \$80,000.

Executive Council was asked to invoke its prerogative under the Medical Travel Policy to address the gaps with an Interim Measure until the SHB review is completed, its options analyzed and public consultation on any proposed policy amendments is completed. The Interim Measure was approved and is set out in this Directive.

#### **2. Purpose**

This Directive requires that all Health and Social Services Authorities that administer the Medical Travel Policy provide the benefits outlined on Page 3 of this Directive to individuals who must travel outside their home communities for insured health services and who do not have access to similar benefits through an employer or other third party benefit plan. These benefits are supplementary to benefits already provided through the Medical Travel Policy.

#### **3. Exemptions and Restrictions**

This Directive applies to the Health and Social Services Authorities that administer the Medical Travel Policy, namely Stanton, Fort Smith and Inuvik.

#### **4. Amendment**

This Directive may be amended in writing by the Minister from time to time.



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The Interim Measure is effective until further notice.

**5. Effective Date**

This Directive comes into effect on date of signing.

“Original Signed By ”

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J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister

Sept. 12, 2003

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Date



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| <b>Interim Measures</b>  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Eligibility Category</b>  | <b>Payment of the Co-Payment</b>  | <b>Payment of the remaining medical transportation costs</b> | <b>Additional Travel Benefits for Patients &amp; Escorts</b>  |
| NWT residents who have a family income of less than \$80,000 and who do not have access to an employer or other third party medical travel benefits. | The GNWT  | The GNWT   | <p>The following are provided free of charge to the patient:</p> <p>Accommodation and meals at boarding facilities</p> <p>Ground transportation for all medically related travel.</p> <p>If there is no room in a boarding facility then beneficiaries are placed in commercial accommodation and provided a meal allowance at GNWT approved rates per day. (\$40.00/day)</p> |
| NWT residents required to pay the co-payment who must travel outside their home community for insured health services                                | The patient pays \$250 Co-Payment prior to travel for scheduled medical travel or is invoiced after emergency medical travel. | The GNWT   | If the patient does not have employer or other third party benefits, the patient is afforded an accommodation allowance of \$50.00 per day and a meal allowance of \$18.00 per day will be reimbursed.  |