



# Policy

## 49.09 Supplementary Health Benefits

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### 1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories will provide certain supplementary health benefits to non-Aboriginal residents and their families who are not eligible for either supplementary health benefits available to Aboriginal people or for supplementary health benefits available through employer programs.

### 2. Principles

The Government of the Northwest Territories will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- (1) Government should make the best possible use of program resources by making a contribution towards a portion of the costs of certain supplementary health services for eligible persons, recognizing that a limited budget means even eligible persons will likely have to assume some personal responsibility and incur some supplementary health costs.
- (2) Territorial supplementary health benefits programs should respect the Government of Canada's fiduciary responsibility to Aboriginal people.
- (3) Territorial supplementary health benefits programs should focus on providing benefits to those residents who are not already covered by an existing employer supplementary health benefits program or who are not eligible under any government-sponsored supplementary health benefits program (i.e., Non-insured Health Benefits Program and Métis Health Benefits Program).
- (4) Territorial supplementary health benefits programs should emphasize coverage of preventative services.
- (5) Eligibility for supplementary health benefits should be determined fairly through income testing.
- (6) Territorial supplementary health benefits programs should be designed in a manner that does not cause employers to reduce supplementary health benefit programs for their employees.

### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to the provision of supplementary health benefits to eligible non-Aboriginal residents.

### 4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Aboriginal People – means Canadians who are of Indian, Inuit or Métis ancestry.

Income Test – an assessment of a family's income to determine whether the family income is above or below income thresholds established through this Policy.

Non-Aboriginal Resident – for the purposes of this Policy, a resident of the Northwest Territories who is not of Indian, Inuit or Métis ancestry and who is insured under the Northwest Territories' *Medical Care Act*.

Supplementary Health Benefits – coverage of eligible costs for prescription drugs, dental and vision care, and medical supplies and equipment not covered through the Northwest Territories Health Care Plan.

### 5. Authority and Accountability

#### (1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

#### (a) Minister

The Minister of Health and Social Services (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible for the administration of this Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Executive Council

The Executive Council will:

- (i) establish income tests and income thresholds to be used in the implementation of this Policy; and
- (ii) approve the use of drug lists, equipment lists, and related benefits formulas used in the provision of supplementary health benefits under this Policy.

(b) Minister

The Minister:

- (i) will recommend to the Executive Council income tests, income thresholds and benefits formulas necessary to the implementation of this Policy;
- (ii) will establish departmental policies, guidelines and other direction necessary to the implementation of this Policy;
- (iii) will establish an Appeals Committee in accordance with this Policy; and
- (iv) may recommend revision to this Policy to the Executive Council.

(c) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister will:

- (i) establish administrative processes necessary to the implementation of this Policy;
- (ii) work with the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment when drafting income tests necessary to the

implementation of this Policy, and to establish appropriate collaborative administrative processes;

(iii) recommend to the Minister individuals to be appointed to the Appeals Committee; and

(iv) will contract for the services of an administrator to administer benefits in accordance with this Policy and any departmental policies, guidelines, and administrative processes established in accordance with this Policy.

(d) Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

The Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment will assist the Deputy Minister in drafting income tests necessary to the implementation of this Policy and will work with the Deputy Minister to establish collaborative administrative processes where appropriate.

### 6. Provisions

(1) Types of Services

(a) Eligible persons and families may receive supplementary health benefits for a range of services including:

(i) dental care

(ii) prescription drugs

(iii) vision care

(iv) cost of medical supplies and equipment

(b) Types of eligible services will be further defined by departmental policies.

(2) Departmental Policies

- (a) Departmental policies, guidelines and processes will be established to address program eligibility, available benefits, eligible services, program management and other matters necessary to the implementation of this Policy.
- (b) Factors and positions that will inform the development of departmental policies, guidelines and processes will include the following:
  - (i) non-Aboriginal residents and their families will be eligible to be considered for benefits under this Policy only if they are not eligible under an employer's program.
  - (ii) non-Aboriginal residents who are eligible for employer programs or other plans offering supplementary health benefits, will not be eligible for additional benefits under this Policy.
  - (iii) income testing and income thresholds will be used to determine eligibility for benefits under this Policy.
  - (iv) income testing and income thresholds established under this Policy will reflect the Government of the Northwest Territories' broader principles and direction concerning income security.
  - (v) front-line service providers will, as much as is practically possible, be reimbursed directly.
- (c) All departmental policies, guidelines and processes established under this Policy will be made public.

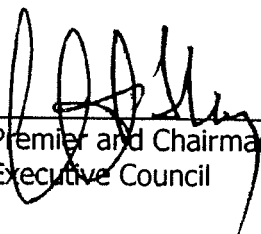
(3) Appeals

- (a) The Minister will establish and make public procedures for appealing decisions concerning the implementation and application of this Policy.
- (b) An Appeals Committee will be established to hear appeals in accordance with procedures established by the Minister.
- (c) The Appeal Committee will be made up of three (3) persons appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Deputy Minister and the contracted administrator.



### 7. Prerogative of the Executive Council

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting supplementary health benefits outside the provisions of this Policy.



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Premier and Chairman of the  
Executive Council