

INFO

Published by the Department of Health, Government of the N.W.T., Yellowknife, N.W.T.

NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



3 1936 00004 778 5

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 25 - 90 - (2) TABLED ON OCT 22 1990

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this administrative directive is to clarify when non-medical escorts are appropriate for patients covered by the Medical Travel Policy.

2. AUTHORIZATION OF NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS

All authorizations for non-medical escorts must be based upon the criteria in this directive. In particular, there is no automatic authorization for a non-medical escort when the patient is an elder or senior or when the patient is registered for Extended Medical Benefits. The criteria apply to all patients travelling under the Department of Health Medical Travel Policy.

As a general rule, a non-medical escort is not authorized when a medical escort is travelling with the patient. However, criteria in this directive may be used to authorize a non-medical escort as well as a medical escort. Examples would be a) non-medical escorts required for interpretation, b) mother required as non-medical escort for a breastfeeding infant under 2 years of age.

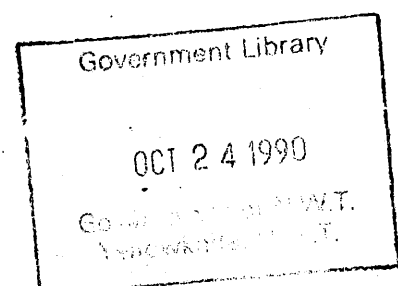
A second non-medical escort is only provided when prior approved by the Health Benefits Administrator.

3. DEFINITIONS:

"Non-medical escort" is an adult required to accompany a patient who is unable to travel without some assistance.

"Minor" means a person under 19 years of age.

"Mature minor" means a minor who fully appreciates the nature and consequences of beneficial medical treatment.



Note: Some mature minors may also be "emancipated minors" which means that they have essentially assumed responsibility for their own life as indicated by living away from home, being employed, being married and/or being a parent.

4. NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS FOR ADULT PATIENTS

Non-medical escorts may be provided for adult patients when:

- a) the patient has a mental or physical handicap of a nature that he or she is not able to travel unassisted; or
- b) the patient requires an escort for interpretation during the travel; or
- c) the attending physician at the treatment destination provides a written request for a non-medical escort to participate in the treatment program in order to learn how to care for the patient following discharge. Such requests require the prior approval of the Health Benefits Administrator, Department of Health.

The escort is expected to return on the earliest reasonable available transportation unless approval has been granted for an extended stay. If an escort chooses to stay past the earliest return transportation, and no approval has been granted for an extended stay, the escort is responsible for all extra costs incurred.

5. NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE MINORS

A. Breastfeeding infants under two years of age

In this case, the breastfeeding mother should be the non-medical escort.

B. Minors under the age of 16

Generally, minors under 16 should be accompanied by a non-medical escort who is an adult who is usually a family member.

An exception would be a mature minor who does not require a non-medical escort. However, even in such cases, discretion may be exercised depending upon the patient's medical condition and the medical procedures which are planned.

C. Minors 16 years of age and over but under 19

In such cases, a non-medical escort is not automatically provided. An escort may be provided if appropriate given the patient's maturity, medical condition and the procedures which are planned. Factors such as the patient's social situation and parental wishes may be considered.

D. Mature minors who are over 16 but under 19 years of age

Such patients are not provided with a non-medical escort unless one of the following criteria is met:

- i) the patient has a mental or physical handicap of a nature that he or she is not able to travel unassisted.
- ii) the patient requires an escort for interpretation during the travel.
- iii) the attending physician at the treatment facility provides a written request for a non-medical escort to participate in the treatment program in order to learn how to care for the patient following discharge. Such requests require the prior approval of the Health Benefits Administrator, Department of Health.
- iv) in rare circumstances, where there are significant extenuating family or social situations.

6. EXTENDED STAYS FOR NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS

When the patient is a Registered Indian, Inuit or Certified Indigent, a non-medical escort may be authorized to stay for part or all of the patient's treatment.

When the patient is Metis or Non-Native, non-medical escort expenses are subsidized to a maximum of 10 days at \$38 per day.

In either of these cases, the criteria for extended stays of non-medical escorts are:

- (i) the escort is required to stay as part of the treatment program in order to learn how to care for the patient following discharge. Such cases require a written request from the attending physician at the treatment facility, and prior approval from the Health Benefits Administrator, Department of Health.

- (ii) the escort is required to provide interpretation for the patient and the patient referral officer at the treatment destination verifies that appropriate local interpreters are not available.
- (iii) the patient is an infant who is being breastfed by the mother who is the non-medical escort.
- (iv) the patient is under the age of majority and requires an escort. (See 5 above)

Note: if the patient is admitted to hospital, the non-medical escort will not be authorized for an extended stay unless one of the other criteria is met.

- (v) prior approval has been granted by the Health Benefits Administrator, Department of Health for an extended stay in exceptional circumstances.

Unless there is a medical reason to justify it, a non-medical escort will not receive medical travel benefits to return to the treatment facility to escort the patient home, unless no other suitable escort can be found.

In summary, discretion and judgement is required in determining the need for a non-medical escort. Clarification or consideration of unusual cases can be provided by contacting:

Health Benefits Administrator	403-873-7710	Fax: 403-873-0266
Senior Policy Officer, Benefits	403-920-3299	Fax: 403-873-0266



Ed Chown,
Director,
Health Insurance Services.