



May 16, 2024

ROBERT HAWKINS
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question # 111-20(1): Provision of Health Services to Nunavut Clients

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 26, 2024 regarding services provided to Nunavut.

There are several health services provided to Nunavut residents via four separate agreements and chargeback arrangements.

As part of the **Nunavut Services Contract**, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) supplies physicians for specialist travel clinics in Internal Medicine, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Pediatrics. We also provide rehabilitation professionals for travel clinics including Speech Language Pathology (SLP), Audiology, Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physiotherapy. This contract charges Nunavut 100% of all related expenses including salaries for eight (8) FTEs, travel and supplies plus an administration fee of 30% for all physician travel clinics, 11% for all rehabilitation clinics, and 10% for all other services, including Med-Response.

Specific to Audiology services, Nunavut funds a full time Audiologist and Rehabilitation Assistant (Audiology). These positions travel to Nunavut and see most Nunavut patients in Yellowknife.

During the current period of severe staffing issues (SLP and OT have a greater than 50% vacancy rate), we have suspended OT and SLP travel clinics to Nunavut to ensure service access to NWT residents.

The **Nunavut Vision Care Contract** is for the provision of eye examinations, eyeglasses, and other benefits as defined in the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Vision Care Framework.

The contract allows billing a flat rate for clinic days, travel days and weather days, a flat rate for regular time and overtime for any additional services, recovery of any actual travel disbursements and any costs associated with interpreters along with an administration fee of 5% for 2023-2024. This contract also funds two ophthalmology positions to cover services provision.

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NTHSSA also provides **Medical Travel** to Nunavut patients medevaced from the NWT to southern locations, which is recovered at cost.

NTHSSA **Bio-Medical** Unit has an MOU with Nunavut to provide servicing of their Bio-Medical equipment. The contract funds one (1.0) position and associated O&M costs are recovered.

Thank you.



Les Semmler
Minister of Health and Social Services

- c. Principal Secretary
Deputy Secretary, Premier's Office
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and House Planning, Executive and Indigenous Affairs