



# Medical Transport Update

May 26, 2020

Yuustway Health and Wellness

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## Medical Transportation Benefits Coverage

The Squamish Nation Health Benefits team administers the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) Medical Transportation Policy Framework (MTPF) on behalf of the FNHA. This program is fully funded through FNHA, **NOT** funded by Squamish Nation own source revenue or any other funded source.

FNHA Medical Transportation (MT) **Does Not** cover travel to local appointments. (Within 30km of their residence)

For eligible travel, the MT benefit covers the most economical and efficient means of transportation, taking into account the urgency of the situation and the medical condition being addressed.

## Documentation

Clients requesting MT coverage must provide the following documentation before travel can be arranged:

- A referral from a general practitioner or family doctor; and
- Confirmation of an upcoming appointment from the health provider or facility.

**\*\* 2 business days' notice is required for Health Benefits team to organize travel\*\***

The role of our patient travel clerks is to administer the funds and coordinate medical travel for our eligible clients. Their aim is to ensure that our clients receive the benefits to which they are entitled, as defined under the MTPF.

### On-reserve clients:

To organize your travel or to learn about exceptional coverage, clients should call the Health Benefits team.

Barb Baker or Nadeen Reginald at 604.982.0332 Yuustway Health Services or Clare Robinson at 604.892.5166 Totem Hall.

### Off-reserve clients:

To organize your travel contact FNHA directly at 1-800- 317- 7878.



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH BENEFITS

# Medical Transportation

First Nations Health Benefits (Health Benefits) provides medical transportation (MT) benefits to support clients accessing medically necessary health services not available in their community of residence. Eligible clients may be provided with funding for meals, accommodation, and transportation as required.

### What is covered?

Transportation to access medically necessary health services, which may include:

- ✓ Medical services insured through the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP)
- ✓ Publicly-funded diagnostic tests and preventive screening programs
- ✓ Services covered by First Nations Health Benefits (e.g., dental, vision, etc.)
- ✓ Traditional healers
- ✓ Treatment at the nearest appropriate facility in BC funded by or referred to by the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP)

Health Benefits may provide funding for accommodation, meals, and travel based on the following rates:

- Mileage rate for personal vehicles: 23¢/km
- Accommodation in private homes: \$30 per night, up to a max of \$100 per week
- Meals:
  - \$10 for same-day trips
  - \$25 per night for trips up to six nights for clients under nine years old
  - \$48 per night for trips up to six night for clients nine years and older
  - \$163 per week for trips seven nights or more, inclusive of escorts

Coverage may be available for clients to travel with an escort in cases where the client:

- Is a minor
- Requires assistance with activities of daily living such as dressing, eating, or bathing
- Is undergoing a medical procedure (e.g., day surgery) or has a medical condition that will result in the client requiring assistance
- Will receive instructions on specific and essential home medical or nursing procedures that cannot be given to the client only
- Faces a language barrier
- Is travelling to give birth, including travel to be near medical care while awaiting childbirth (prenatal confinement)

Health Benefits covers the most economical and efficient means of transportation, taking into account the urgency of the situation and the medical condition being addressed. Some types of travel not listed as a benefit may be covered on an exceptional basis. Please note that not all medical travel is covered. For a full description of the MT benefit, including benefit exclusions, please visit [www.fnha.ca/benefits/medical-transportation](http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/medical-transportation).

Clients living on-reserve should contact their health centre about booking MT travel.

### Documentation

Clients requesting MT coverage must provide the following documentation before travel can be arranged:

- A referral from a general practitioner or family doctor
- Confirmation of an upcoming appointment from the health provider or facility

For eligible, pre-approved MT trips, clients must provide confirmation of attendance (COA) from the health provider or facility after their appointment. Travel expenses will not be reimbursed without a written COA.

# Accessing Medical Transportation Benefits

SEPTEMBER 2019

1

- Client has an appointment for a medically-necessary health service not available in their home community.

2

- Client contacts Health Benefits to see if they are covered by a Funding Agreement (FA). If they are covered by an FA, then MT benefits are arranged through the band office or office of a First Nations organization.
- Clients not covered by an FA should submit an MT request to Health Benefits with all relevant documentation.

3

- Health Benefits or band office reviews the request and determines eligibility based on program guidelines.
- Health Benefits or band office makes travel arrangements and forwards the information to the client.

4

- Client attends the appointment as scheduled and obtains written confirmation of attendance (COA).
- Client submits COA to Health Benefits or to their band office, as applicable.