



March 11, 2021

STEVE NORN
MLA, TU NEDHE WIILIDEH

Oral Question 602-19(2): Response to Medical Emergencies in Small Communities

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 26, 2021 regarding Response to Medical Emergencies in Small Communities.

As requested, please see attached a copy of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority policy titled, "Community Health Center Out of Facility Emergencies or Other Requests for Transportation."

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

Attachment

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

NTHSSA-WIDE POLICY

Title: Community Health Center Out of Facility Emergencies or Other Requests for Transportation	Policy Number: 04-09-V1
Applicable Domain: Community Health Centre Clinical Services	
Additional Domain(s): NA	
Effective Date: 06/11/2019	Next Review Date: 06/11/2022
Issuing Authority: NTHSSA CEO	Date Approved: 06/11/2019
Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: NA	

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) Community Health Nurses (CHNs) are not first responders. CHNs do not respond to emergencies outside of Health and Social Services Centres, on the land, or on the road system. NTHSSA Health and Social Services Centres are specifically equipped to deal with emergencies and other illnesses in the facilities.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

To provide optimal patient and staff safety to all residents and to provide guidelines for CHNs in communities without ambulance services.

DEFINITIONS:

NA

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners (NP) and/or other Health Care Workers in the Northwest Territories who are in a position where they may be asked to respond out of a Health Center for a medical emergency.

Note: CHNs can continue to provide scheduled care like home care services, vaccine clinics that are off site and school visits.

PROCEDURE:

1. NTHSSA does not provide ambulance services in communities, on the land, or on the road system.
2. Contracted ground transportation services are not intended for use as an ambulance service to respond to emergencies.

3. Community Health Nurses and other NTHSSA staff are not responsible for transporting patients to Health and Social Services facilities in emergency situations.
4. During a disaster response NTHSSA CHNs will be expected to receive and care for victims at Health and Social Services Centres.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

NA

CROSS-REFERENCES:

NA

ATTACHMENTS:

NA

REFERENCES:

1. Emergency Medical Aid Act R.S.N.W.T.1998, c.E-4, including amendments made by S.N.W.T. 2002, C.11, S.N.W.T.2003, C.15. In force January 1,2004;SI-004-2003
<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/emergency-medical-aid/emergency-medical-aid.a.pdf>
2. Nursing Profession Act S.N.W.T. 2002.c.11,2.33;S.N.W.T. 2003,c.15,s.75(2)
<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/nursing-profession/nursing-profession.a.pdf>

APPROVAL:

November 6, 2019

Date



Sue Cullen
NTHSSA Chief Executive Officer