



49.01 Métis Health Benefits

1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories will provide health benefits assistance to eligible recipients under the Métis Health Benefits Policy.

2. Principles

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

- (i) The Métis Health Benefits Policy should assist eligible recipients who require health services and products beyond those covered by the Northwest Territories Health Care Plan.
- (ii) The Métis Health Benefits Policy should be the payor of last resort, above and beyond the other benefits programs offered by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, employer plans, or other such programs.
- (iii) Benefits defined under the Métis Health Benefits Policy should be provided on the basis of professional medical/nursing or dental judgment.
- (iv) The Métis Health Benefits Policy should support Métis reaching an overall health status that is comparable with other Canadians.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to eligible recipients who qualify for benefits described by the Métis Health Benefits Policy.

4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Benefits Administrator - an individual or company contracted by the Government of the Northwest Territories to administer the benefits available under the Métis Health Benefits Policy.

Eligible Recipients - those Métis who meet the eligibility requirements of this Policy.

Payor of last resort – In the context of an insurance program, a ‘payor of last resort’ only pays when all other sources of insurance coverage available for the same purpose have been exhausted (such as from an employer insurance program).

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 and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may approve program provisions.

6. Provisions

(1) Eligible Recipients

Eligibility to the Métis Health Benefits Program is restricted to a Métis who:

- a) Is a Canadian citizen, resident of the Northwest Territories and registered under the Northwest Territories Health Care Plan; and
- b) Is not registered under the *Indian Act* (commonly referred to as ‘status Indian’) or an Inuk recognized by an Inuit Land Claim organization; and,
- c) Self-identifies as Métis and is a member of an Indigenous government or Indigenous organization in the Northwest Territories whose members hold or assert to hold Aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories as affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; or
- d) Is adopted as a minor by a person qualified under (c); or
- e) Is a descendant of a person qualified under (c) or (d).

(2) Terms and Conditions

(a) Level of Benefits

Benefits under the Métis Health Benefits Policy are provided with the intent of offering eligible recipients 100 percent coverage of full benefits afforded to ‘registered/status Indians’ and Inuit pursuant to the provisions of the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program as may be amended from time to time.

(b) Eligible Recipients with Employer or Similar Plans

Eligible recipients who have employer or similar plans offering health or transportation benefits must first seek reimbursement from the employer or similar plan. Eligible recipients can apply for reimbursement to the Benefits Administrator for items not covered by the employer or similar plan.

An eligible recipient who has access to benefits under an employer or similar plan and who chooses not to participate in that plan is not eligible for benefits under the Métis Health Benefits Policy.

(c) For greater clarity, applicants who are registered under the NIHB program are not eligible for Métis Health Benefits.

(d) Reimbursement

(i) Eligible recipients, or those authorized to claim on their behalf, may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of total eligible cost.

(ii) Eligible recipients with employer or similar plans may request reimbursement of any outstanding balance up to 100 percent of total eligible cost of benefits following reimbursement by the employer or similar plan.

(3) Financial Conditions

Original receipts are to be submitted by eligible recipients or those authorized to claim on a recipient's behalf. Receipts are to be received by the Benefits Administrator no more than twelve months after the date that the products were purchased, or services were rendered for reimbursement.

7. Financial Resources

Financial resources required under this Policy are conditional on approval of funds in the Main Estimates by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds would be required.

8. 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 Métis Health Benefits outside the provisions of this Policy.



Premier and Chair of the Executive Council

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To complete an application form for benefits under the Métis Health Benefit Policy, the applicant will be required to:

- Provide their Northwest Territories Health Care Plan Card number;
- Sign a declaration that they are not registered under the *Indian Act* (commonly referred to as 'status Indian') or an Inuk recognized by an Inuit Land Claim organization;
- Indicate self-identification as Métis; and,
- Provide a letter from one of the Indigenous governments or Indigenous organizations listed below confirming they are a member of one of the following Indigenous government or Indigenous organization whose members hold or asserts to hold Aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories as affirmed by section 35 of *the Constitution Act, 1982*:
 - Dehcho First Nations as the regional government representing the Fort Providence Métis Council and Fort Simpson Métis Local #52
 - Gwich'in Tribal Council
 - Northwest Territory Métis Nation as the regional government representing the Fort Resolution Métis Government, Fort Smith Métis Council and Hay River Métis Government Council
 - North Slave Métis Alliance
 - Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated
 - Tłı̨chǫ Government