

ANISHINAABEG OF NAONGASHIING

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

80. MEDICAL TRIPS

80.1- Local area Medical Trips. – Rainy River, Emo and Fort Frances

- a) **All medical trips will be made only with the approval of the Medical transportation Coordinator or a designated alternative.**
- b) **Referrals to specialists outside of Fort Frances must be referred to the Medical Transportation Coordinator as soon as the patient is aware of the appointment, in order that arrangements can be made for suitable travel and accommodations**
- c) **Eligibility requirements for local medical transportation are as follows:**
 - **Any family or person who has their own vehicle will NOT be eligible for medical transportation within the local area, nor will any driver appointed by the patient receive payment. This does not include extended family members with dependents living in the same house.**
 - **Local transportation for medical purposes is available to all residents of the community who are status Indians.**
 - **Any Band member requesting local medical transportation must be resident in the community.**
 - **Members of Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing who are resident of Big Grassy are eligible for local medical transportation.**
 - **Members of Big Grassy F.N. who are resident of Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing, must request local transportation from the Big Grassy First Nation.**
- d) **Clients who request local transportation must return the same day except in the case of hospitalization.**
- e) **Any Patient who does not return on the same day, who wishes to remain in town, will be required to sign a release form, will be responsible for their own transportation home, and will be charged the costs of the original trip.**

- f) **Clients who do not have their own transportation may request transportation for Optometrist and Dental appointments. Dental trips will only be authorized for appointments in Rainy River. Those patients wishing to be transported for Optometrist and/or dental appointments in Fort Frances will only be eligible for a medical trip if the van is transporting patients to a doctor or hospital. To facilitate the coordination of such appointments, prior notice of the dental or optometrist appointment must be given to the Medical Transportation Coordinator**
- g) **In case of an medical emergency, even if the family has access to a vehicle, if that vehicle or a licensed driver is not available, the patient will be transported to the nearest hospital(Rainy River). Any further referral or transportation from Rainy River will be subject to the Out of Area transportation Policy.**
- h) **The only exemption to clause 80.1(h) is that should an expectant mother appear to be in labour, that patient will be transported directly to Fort Frances, the nearest Hospital which can take Maternity cases.**
- i) **All Medical trips whether they are scheduled appointments or emergency trips must be pre-approved, in order to receive payment for the trip. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- j) **Patients who have regular or repeat appointments and do not advise the Medical Transportation Coordinator until the day of the appointment may not be able to be transported due to prior commitment of the medical van, in this case no alternative arrangement will be made.**
- k) **Prescription refills for long term use will be picked up on prescheduled medical trips. Clients are urged to notify the Medical Transportation Coordinator prior to running out of medications, to ensure that the medication can be picked up on the next available scheduled trip.**
- l) **Not withstanding Section 80.1k, in the event that medical circumstances preclude the early repeat of a prescription (i.e. narcotics) a special trip will be made to Rainy River for that particular prescription.**
- m) **Any clients who have been referred for counseling outside the community, will be transported to the appointment by the program staff.**

80.1 OUT OF AREA MEDICAL TRIPS

- a) Appointment to an out of area specialist must be made by referral from a local area doctor. The documentation confirming that appointment, showing date, time of appointment and specialty must be provided to the Medical Transportation Coordinator.**
- b) Transportation for medical appointments for out of area specialists will be subject to the following conditions:-**
 - Once referral has been made the Medical Transportation Coordinator must be advised at least seven (7) days prior to the appointment, in order that timely arrangements can be made.**
 - The Patient will be transported to the nearest bus depot and met there on his/her return, but only if the patient has no other means of transportation to the nearest appropriate public transportation.**
 - If for any reason the patient will not be returning on the scheduled bus, the Medical Transportation Coordinator must be advised in time for the pick-up to be canceled. In the event that the patient does not advise the Medical Transportation Coordinator of this, the patient will be charged the cost of the trip.**
 - In the event that the patient chooses to use their own vehicle, mileage will be paid according to the schedule set out in 80.1 ©**
 - Accommodations for commercial hotels will be the responsibility of the patient.**
 - Assistance for travel costs for an escort will be provided at the discretion of the Medical Transportation Coordinator, if medical condition or age(Minor children under the age of 18, or elderly persons, over the age of 60 years) would indicate the need for an escort, in accordance with Health Canada guidelines.**
 - If in the discretion of the Medical Transportation Coordinator, either for medical or economic reasons the use of the medical van for transportation to a distant facility is a better option than public transportation, every effort will be made to arrange schedules and drivers accordingly.**
 - Referral and transportation to an alcohol or substance treatment centre will be the responsibility of the NAADAP worker.**

- **Transportation to an alcohol treatment centre will only be authorized and supplied for transportation to the nearest centre (Thunder Bay, Winnipeg and Kenora), except when medical circumstances warrant specialized facilities, and that need has been documented.**
- **Transportation for traditional treatments is not the responsibility of the Medical Transportation Coordinator, and clients should contact the First Nation Manager, who will review the requirements and make appropriate arrangements.**

c) The following rates will be paid to community members traveling out of town for medical appointments:-

Accommodations	Actual Hotel to	\$65.00
	Private	25.00
Meals Breakfast	10.00 Lunch	15.00 Dinner
		20.00
Mileage own vehicle	.15c per km	
Public Transportation	Actual Costs.	
Medical Van	No payment to Client.	

- d) Notwithstanding section 80.2 (c) Full time salaried staff members, their spouses and dependent children living at home are not eligible for the payments outlined in © above, but will be paid the sum \$105.00 to assist with out of area travel costs to Winnipeg or Thunder Bay. Staff are encouraged to apply for the Northern Ontario Travel Grant.**
- e) Salaried staff members wishing to travel out of town for medical purposes, are responsible for their own transportation and the Medical Van will not be used to transport them to the appointment.**
- f) Notwithstanding Sections 80.2(d)and 80.2 (e) salaried staff members, who do not have their own transportation or whose family income is less than \$22,000.00 will be assessed on a one by one basis, and may be eligible for increased assistance.**
- g) Any Medical travel out of town that involves extensive travel or extended stays will be dealt with on a one to one basis for both community members and salaried staff.**
- h) Special consideration, on a case by case basis, will be given in event of serious illness of an immediate family member, and the subsidy to be paid will be determined by the program head in consultation with the administration staff.**

- i) **Although transportation for alcohol or drug treatment is considered a medical trip, that applies only to the patient, to whom these rules apply. In the case of a minor in treatment, where the centre offers family consultation and the family needs assistance with travel costs, that assistance must be arranged through another program i.e. NAADAP or Family Services and will be provided on a case by case basis.**

81.0 MEDICAL VAN

- a) **The medical van is the property of the Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing.**
- b) **The medical van will be assigned to the Medical Transportation Coordinator, who will be responsible for the vehicle, including the keeping of a mileage log, which records mileage, trips and locations. This log to be forwarded to the administration on a monthly basis for review.**
- c) **The Medical Transportation Coordinator will be responsible for scheduling regular maintenance service and advise the First Nation Manager when repairs are required.**
- d) **The First Nation Manager will issue purchase orders for gas and maintenance and other requirements for the medical van**
- e) **The assigned driver will not allow any other person to operate the vehicle without the express permission of the Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation Manager or designate.**
- f) **The medical driver will not use or allow the medical van to be used for personal transportation. Any unauthorized use of the medical van by the driver will result in a assessment for usage, which will be deducted from trips owing to the medical driver.**
- g) **When not in use the Medical van will be parked in a designated location.**
- h) **When the assigned medical driver is unable, for whatever reason to be on stand-by, the assigned driver will advise the Medical Transportation Coordinator of the fact in a timely manner. A replacement Driver will be arranged.**
- i) **A duplicate set of keys for both entry and ignition systems of the Medical van shall be kept in a designated location in the Administration office and shall only be used when necessary. The spare keys are to be returned to the office immediately upon return.**
- j) **The medical van may be used for the transportation of clients in connection with self-help groups on a weekly basis, provided the costs are allocated to the relevant programs.**

- k) **Any use of the medical van in connection with section 81.0j is not considered a paid medical trip and the van will be assigned to the relevant staff member in connection with that trip only.**
- l) **Passengers of the Medical Van shall abide by the following rules and regulations.**
 - **No intoxicants or mind altering substances are permitted in the vehicle at any time.**
 - **No riders other than the patients and authorized escorts will be allowed in the vehicle, including trips for service of the vehicle.**
 - **Patients may pick up prescriptions, no other personal business is allowed.**
 - **Except for transportation in connection with an out of area medical appointment, or transportation to a treatment facility use of the medical van is limited to those who do not have access to their own means of travel.**
 - **All passenger will be responsible to ensure that they use the personal safety devices, as required by law. Parents will be responsible to ensure that their children are secured in a manner appropriate to their age, as required by law.**
 - **For safety reasons the Medical driver will not transport an intoxicated person alone, but shall advise the Health Director of the fact. The Health Director will appraise the situation, and where necessary arrange for a staff member or a member of the patient's family to accompany the patient and driver.**

82.0 Appeals

Any resident or patient who has a grievance with respect to the administration of these policies may appeal the decision or action. The appeal should be made under the provisions set out in the Administration Code of the Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing.

These Medical transportation policies adopted by Chief and Council, this 1st day of October 2005, shall be in force from this date and remain in force until such time as they are either repealed or amended.

Chief Albert Handorgan

Councilor Carl Big George

Councilor Patrick Handorgan