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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

Government of Nunavut Department of Health

2021/2022 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

From the Director of Medical Insurance



Legislative Authority

Legislation governing the administration of health care in Nunavut was carried over from the Northwest Territories (as Nunavut statutes) pursuant to the *Nunavut Act*. The *Medical Care Act* (hereinafter, the “Act”) governs who is covered by the Nunavut Health Insurance Plan and the payment of benefits for insured medical services.

Section 23(1) of the Act requires the Minister responsible for the Act to appoint a Director of Medical Insurance (the “Director”). The Director is responsible for the administration of the Act and regulations by:

- (a) Assessing the eligibility for entitlement of persons to insured services;
- (b) Assessing the amounts payable to insured services; and
- (c) Authorizing payment of the amounts assessed under paragraph (b) out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
 - (i) To the medical practitioner who provided the insured services or to the person on his or her behalf; or
 - (ii) To the insured person who received the insured services as per Section 5 of the Act.

Section 24 requires the Director to submit an annual report on the operation of the Medical Care Plan (Nunavut Health Insurance Plan) to the Minister for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

Overview of Health Care Services in Nunavut

The management and delivery of health care services in Nunavut are included in the overall operations of the Department of Health (the “Department”). The Department has a regional office located in each of Nunavut’s three regions, which manages the delivery of health services at a regional level. These offices are located in Pangnirtung (Qikiqtaaluk region), Rankin Inlet (Kivalliq region), and Cambridge Bay (Kitikmeot region). Iqaluit operations are administered separately.

The delivery of health care services in Nunavut is based on a primary health care model; for example, visits to family physicians, consultations with nurses or nurse practitioners, and advice received from pharmacists are some common primary health care services.

In 2021/2022, insured hospital services were delivered in 28 facilities across Nunavut including:

- one general hospital (Iqaluit);



services rendered by medical practitioners that are medically required, and are included in the Nunavut Health Insurance Plan's fee schedule of insured benefits which can be found in the Medical Care Regulations. Where the insured service is unavailable in Nunavut, patients are referred to another jurisdiction to obtain the insured service. No new services were added or deleted to the listing of insured services in 2021/2022. The *Nursing Act* allows for licensure of nurse practitioners in Nunavut; this permits nurse practitioners to deliver insured physician services in Nunavut.

Physicians must be licensed to practice in Nunavut. The Department's Professional Practice Division, located in Kugluktuk, administers the registration and licensing process for Nunavut physicians through a Medical Registration Committee.

The following is a comprehensive list of insured categories as per Nunavut's Medical Care Regulations. Services provided under these categories are considered insured if the medically required diagnosis and/or treatment is provided in-territory or out-of-territory.

- Anesthesiology
- Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery
- Dermatology
- General Practitioner
- Gynecology
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Obstetrics
- Ophthalmology
- Otolaryngology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Plastic Surgery (not cosmetic)
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Urology

Visiting specialists, general practitioners and locums, through arrangements made by each of the Department's three regions and Qikiqtani General Hospital, also provide insured physician services in-territory.

The following in-territory specialist services were provided under the visiting specialists program: ophthalmology, orthopedics, internal medicine, otolaryngology, neurology, rheumatology, dermatology, pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatry, oral surgery, and allergy. Visiting specialist clinics were held depending on referrals by Nunavut physicians and availability of specialists.

