



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Non-reimbursable Medical Patient Travel / Compassionate Policy

1. **Effective date: April 1, 2011**
Amended date: January 14, 2025

2. Policy

Objective

Huu-ay-aht First Nations (Huu-ay-aht) is committed to providing financial support to those citizens who do not have status and are traveling to medical, dental, or health-related appointments.

This policy ensures that:

- Huu-ay-aht will follow First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) policy and regulations associated to medical travel rates
- Huu-ay-aht First Nations will offer a top-up to these FNHA medical and travel rates.
- Huu-ay-aht will ensure the privacy of all medical, dental, and health personal information and will manage this information securely, ethically, and transparently, with respect for individual and collective privacy rights. Non-citizens, such as external individuals or organizations, have no right of access but may be granted information at the government's discretion, subject to governance rules and agreements.

Statement

This policy applies to all Huu-ay-aht citizens who require financial support to attend to medical, dental, or health-related appointments.

It covers all Huu-ay-aht citizens in the following way:

- Mileage support
- Meals daily, overnight or weekly
- Up to a maximum of 3 weeks' extended stay
- One escort support
- Accommodation

Additionally, this policy also covers those exceptional circumstances where compassion supports immediate family members to be with their loved ones.

3. Authority & Application

This policy is issued under the authority of the **Executive Director**, pursuant to the Citizen Development Regulations and any other applicable Huu-ay-aht laws and regulations governing the protection of personal information.



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- **First Nations Health Authority**

Huu-ay-aht Community & Citizen Services will stay aligned and up to date with FNHA [Medical Transportation Benefit](#) and FNHA [Health Benefits Program Overview](#)

- **Availability**

Anyone who is a registered Huu-ay-aht Citizen will be entitled to apply for Patient Travel Support. Travel will be provided if it meets the requirements of a medical, dental, or health-related appointment.

- **Accountability**

Everyone who handles personal information is responsible for protecting it. Responsibilities for securing the information will be understood and enforced. Citizens will be accountable to ensure they apply for patient travel in advance to ensure that the Huu-ay-aht administration has adequate time to review the application and to submit it for payment.

4. Policy Requirements

4.1 Mileage

- Mileage will be provided for the following:
 - (a) Gravel roads will be \$.35/km (plus HFN Top UP of .29 km)
 - (b) Paved roads will be \$0.29/km (plus HFN Top Up of .10 km)

4.2 Meals

Description	Rate	Subject to:
Daily Rate	\$ 36.75 Adult \$ 17.50 under 5 yrs old	Over 6 hours of travel
Overnight Stay	\$73.00 Adult \$ 31.00 under 5 yrs old	When need to stay overnight
Weekly Rate	\$294.75	For those medical or health-related incidents that require the citizen to remain close to medical facilities.
Weekly Rate including an escort	\$442.75	For those medical or health-related incidents that require the citizen to remain close to medical facilities, and the



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		patient cannot drive on their own, and requires a driver.
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4.3 Accommodations

To support citizens in accessing safe and comfortable accommodation while travelling for medical, dental, or health-related care, the following accommodation rates are available:

Fee schedule for nightly accommodations		
	High season (May-Oct)	Low season (Nov-Apr)
Metro Vancouver	\$315	\$220
Victoria	\$265	\$170
Rest of BC	\$175	\$160

Private rate \$50 per night \$350 Weekly

5. Exceptions

A. Long-term stays

Citizens on medical trips of seven or more nights are eligible for the weekly meal rate and should be booked into accommodation with kitchenette facilities.

B. Citizens travelling for procedures requiring sedation

One escort for a citizen who is undergoing surgery or a procedure that involves sedation and will require assistance afterward. Written confirmation that the Client will be sedated as part of their medical travel will be required.

6. Non-Reimbursable Patient Travel

Huu-ay-aht First Nations values the safety and well-being of our citizens. As a Treaty Nation, we have an obligation to support our citizens so that they can become self-reliant. We know that at times of need, citizens require support to get them back to a healthy and safe livelihood. For compassionate support, Huu-ay-aht First Nations will financially support immediate families to be with their loved ones. This compassionate support is not part of the Huu-ay-aht Funeral Policy ([recommendations-of-funeral-policy-changes-2020.pdf](#)). Huu ay aht will require a medical



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note from the Dr, Social Worker, Hospital Liaison or from the facility stating the requirements and having a contact name for the family member.

An immediate family member means:

- (a) spouse, including a common law spouse,
- (b) parent, including biological, step- or common law parent,
- (c) child, foster child or ward
- (d) stepchild
- (e) sibling
- (f) grandparents
- (g) any other relative who resides permanently in the public officer's household or with whom the public officer permanently resides

Compassionate travel support:

Description	Amount	Definition
Accommodation	4.3 of this policy outlines the set amounts for accommodations	One night's accommodation with a maximum of 3 rooms would be supplied to the immediate family.
Travel	In lieu of mileage, ferry cards and gas cards would be provided.	A maximum of 3 gas cards would be provided.
Meals	The daily rate of \$250.00 for meals for family Single person rate\$ 73	A daily food amount would be supplied to provide support for the family to have meals.

7. What is not covered by this policy

- (a) Appointments for clients in the care of federal, provincial or territorial institutions (e.g., incarcerated clients);
- (b) Court-ordered treatment/assessment, or as a condition of parole, coordinated by the justice system.
- (c) Appointments while travelling outside of Canada.
- (d) Travel for clients residing in an off-TSL location where the appropriate health services are available locally.
- (e) Travel for the purposes of a third-party requested medical examination.
- (f) The return trip home in cases of an illness while away from home other than for approved travel to access medically required health services.
- (g) Travel only to pick up new or repeat prescriptions or vision care products.
- (h) Payment of professional fee(s) for preparation of doctor's note /document preparation to support provision of benefits.
- (i) Transportation to adult day care, respite care, and safe houses.



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8. Authority

Citizen Development Committee (CDC)

CDC is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and ensuring that implementation of the policy is implemented. The CDC will:

- Approve this policy and any related procedures;
- Ensuing monitoring of the policies and procedures are occurring yearly to ensure that the safety and well-being of citizens are being met;
- Keep the policy up to date with FNHA policy amendments; and
- Identify any amendments that are required.

The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring the appropriate department is implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the policy.

The Community and Citizen Department is responsible for the full implementation of the policy, including the monitoring and evaluation of the policy.

Appendixes

Patient travel application process



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Appendix A:

Patient travel application

Please contact the Huu-ay-aht Citizen Health Coordinator Kimberly Nookemus via email Kimberly.n@huuayaht.org or by phone at 250-728-3414 ext. 208 or by fax at 250-728 -2044 five days before your appointment with these details:

- Name of patient
- Date of Birth
- Status #
- Mailing address
- Phone #
- Dr.'s Name
- Type of Doctor (Ear, Nose and Throat, optometrist, dentist, dermatologist...)
- Location of Doctor's office
- Time of apt
- Date of apt
- How are you getting to the appointment (driving, bus, boat...)?

Details also required for patient travel:

- Confirmation of appointment
- Confirm with the Huu-ay-aht medical department that your travel arrangements are planned prior to your medical appointment
- Send confirmation of attendance once the medical appointment is complete