

SAHTU HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE AUTHORITY
Policy

POLICY

MEDICAL EVACUATION

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POLICY

The attending Community Health Nurse (CHN) is responsible for the decision to medevac a patient when further medical intervention is indicated. This decision is based on the CHN's assessment and/or expertise, in consultation with the consulting physician/doctor on call.

The Nurse-in-Charge (N.I.C.) of the Health Centre has the authority to request that he/she be notified of all medevacs, and to assist, as he/she deems necessary. The N.I.C. is ultimately responsible for the decision to medevac, but can delegate the responsibility.

The NIC or CHN will notify the Manager of Health Services of all medevacs. Notification can be done by phone or email at the earliest convenience. Depending on the seriousness of the situation it is the professional judgment of the NIC and CHN to notify the MHS after hours.

Community Health Nurses are responsible for following the medevac procedures outlined in this policy.

PURPOSE

1. To provide nurses in Community Health Centres with guidance on the decision to medevac.
2. To outline the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority (SHSSA) procedures for accessing a medical evacuation from a community health centre.

PROCEDURE

1. The attending CHN contacts the Physician on Call. In Norman Wells, Deline, Tulita, Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake the CHN contacts the physician on call within the Sahtu region if there is no physician in the region at the time then the CHN contacts the physician on Call at the Inuvik Hospital if from FGH and

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- Colville Lake. Deline, Norman Wells and Tulita will contact Stanton Territorial Hospital.
2. The CHN reports his/her assessment of the patient and requests a medical evacuation.
 3. Once the medevac is organized, the medevac personel contacts the Health Centre regarding the medevac's estimated time of arrival (ETA).
6. The attending CHN:
- Remains responsible for the patient's care until the medevac Team arrives and care is officially transferred to them;
 - Documents all interventions, contacts, and orders received;
 - Informs the patient, family, and taxi contractor regarding the medevac's ETA;
 - Notifies the Emergency Department of the medevac's departure time and ETA.
7. If an attending Physician is present on the Medevac Team
- Assumes responsibility for the care of the patient;
 - May determine that it is clinically necessary to direct the aircraft to the nearest appropriate point for stabilization. If known, the physician may direct the aircraft straight to Edmonton following discussion with the Specialist. This is dependant on appropriate aircraft, medical equipment and flying weather.
8. The Medevac Personel
- Is responsible for ensuring that all necessary equipment and supplies are sent with the medevac Team. This includes gowns, blankets, and pillows.
 - Is responsible for the return of all equipment and supplies belonging to the Health Centre.

REFERENCES

1. MEDEVAC HANDBOOK, 2003.
2. EMERGENCY SITUATION: GNWT POLICY 420.

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Approved by:


Chad Fehr, CEO