



June 17, 2021

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MLA, NUNAKPUT

Oral Question 725-19(2): Medical Travel Advocate

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on May 31, 2021 regarding a Medical Travel Advocate.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created both direct and indirect impacts on our health and social services system. As you know, the number of COVID-19 cases, the severity, and the overall situation and required response in Alberta has been more challenging than in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Although there has been minimal impact to services provided in Alberta to NWT residents, we have seen some cancellations. Most of these appointments have been rebooked. Processes for booking medical travel remain unchanged, whether the appointment is new or rebooked.

Timelines for rebooking vary. Due to limited availability, rebooking of some specialist appointments in Edmonton has been delayed. In addition, some residents have chosen not to travel to Alberta during this time. The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority is reviewing and managing these residents' care plans accordingly, until such time as they are willing to attend an appointment.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c A/Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs