

 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		<b>NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS</b>	
		<b>Community Health Nursing</b>	
<b>TITLE:</b>		<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>
<b>Emergency Land Medivacs</b>		Nursing Practice	07-026-00
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>REVIEW DUE:</b>	<b>REPLACES NUMBER:</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b>
February 10, 2018	February 2021		3
<b>APPLIES TO:</b>			
Community Health Nurses			

**POLICY 1:**

**Health care will be accessible to all community members, including those who are ill or injured on the land. Search and Rescue (SAR) shall be notified by the Nurse-on-Call (NOC) or Supervisor of Health Programs (SHP) of any person who is known to be ill or injured on the land.**

**POLICY 2:**

**The on call physician shall determine whether an emergency land medivac is warranted. The NOC may authorize a medivac if a physician is unavailable and after consultation with the SHP.**

**POLICY 3:**

**A nurse or physician may volunteer to attend an emergency land medivac if appropriate and if the health centre can continue to operate safely in the absence of that health care practitioner. As a volunteer, the nurse will not be insured and will not be covered for workers compensation benefits through their employment. Employees will however be covered under Workers Compensation and Safety Commission, in case of an accident, through an agreement with Nunavut Emergency Management.**

**PRINCIPLES:**

- Each Hamlet has its own Search and Rescue Team (SAR). For each distress call out on the land for a lost, ill or injured person, the SAR notifies the Nunavut Emergency Measures in Iqaluit (for advice and coordination) and sometimes the RCMP. The contact number is 867-979-6262.
- The *Emergency Medical Aid Act* (1998) states that the RN, MD or volunteer are not liable except for gross negligence while a) rendering emergency first aid assistance and b) rendering emergency medical services or first aid assistance outside the hospital or other place having adequate medical facilities and equipment.
- It is not mandatory for a health care practitioner to attend emergency land medivacs.

**RELATED POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION:**

Guideline 07-026-01      Guidelines for Emergency Land Medivacs  
Nunavut *Emergency Medical Aid Act*

**REFERENCES:**

Department of Health and Social Services (2002). *Emergency Land Medivacs*.  
Nunavut *Emergency Medical Aid Act*

