

## Special Project # 750: Medical Tourism

### Participation

- Participating organizations include all facilities in Alberta that submit to DAD and/or NACRS.

### Project Overview

“Medical Tourism” is the term commonly used to describe when people intentionally travel outside their home province or country to receive privatized medical care. Typically, when people are traveling out of country it is to less developed countries. Common destinations include Mexico, Cuba, Costa Rica, India and Thailand. The most common categories of elective procedures that people pursue during medical tourism trips are cosmetic surgery, bariatric surgery, orthopedic surgery (hip and knee replacements), cardiac surgery, and dentistry.

Benefits to collecting Special Project 750 are the following:

- Identifies patients who traveled outside of Alberta for medical or surgical treatment and who are now receiving treatment for complications or adverse events related to that care
- Cost impact of medical tourism on the public healthcare system can be determined
- Supports research related to medical tourism

### Project Data

#### DAD: Project 750: Medical Tourism

99	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
###	X																							

/

Data  
element  
name

#### NACRS: Project 750: Medical Tourism

###	X																								
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	

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Data  
element  
name

Field Name	DAD Field Number	NACRS Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	99	145	750
Medical Tourism	01	146	Y

### Project 750 (DAD Field 01; NACRS Field 146): Medical Tourism

Specifications	
Field Status	Mandatory if Project 750 is recorded
Field Length	One (1) character
Valid Data	Y

#### Definition

Medical Tourism Flag indicates that there is documentation within the patient record indicating that the patient intentionally travelled out of province or out of country for the specific purpose of receiving treatment for a medical condition.

#### Valid Data Legend

Code	Description
Y	<b>Yes</b> There is documentation in the chart that clearly identifies that the patient has travelled out of province or out of country for the specific purpose of receiving medical or surgical care and is now receiving treatment related to that episode of care.

#### Collection Instructions

- Record Y in the project field when there is documentation on the chart that clearly identifies that the patient has travelled out of province or out of country for the specific purpose of receiving medical or surgical care and is now receiving treatment related to that episode of care.
- Indications of medical tourism are commonly documented in Emergency Department records, the History & Physical, and Operative reports
- Coders are not required to perform an in-depth review of all chart documentation to find medical tourism. If it is found during the normal review of chart documentation, then it is to be captured.

#### Examples

- NACRS - 36 year old female presents to her local Emergency Department in Fort McMurray with recent onset of drainage from the right breast. Documentation indicates

patient had a bilateral breast augmentation and mastopexy performed in Cancun, Mexico 3 weeks prior. Patient treated and discharged home.

Field Name (NACRS)	Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	145	750
Medical Tourism Flag	146	Y

2. DAD - 54 year old male was admitted to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for hernia repair related to previous bariatric surgery. History and operative reports indicate patient underwent bariatric surgery in Mexico six months prior.

Field Name (DAD)	Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	99	750
Medical Tourism Flag	01	Y

3. NACRS/DAD - 26 year old male presents to the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Emergency Department with worsening symptoms of multiple sclerosis and cervical neck pain. Patient history indicates that the patient recently returned from India after having the Liberation Therapy for Multiple Sclerosis. Patient is admitted to an acute care bed.

Field Name (NACRS)	Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	145	750
Medical Tourism Flag	146	Y

Field Name (DAD)	Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	99	750
Medical Tourism Flag	01	Y

4. DAD - 66 year old female is admitted to the Red Deer Regional Hospital with dislocation of hip. Documentation in the record indicates that the patient underwent a total hip replacement at a private orthopedic centre in Vancouver 10 weeks prior.

Field Name (DAD)	Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	99	750
Medical Tourism Flag	01	Y

5. NACRS – 35 year old male is admitted to Sturgeon Day Surgery unit for laparoscopic abdominal hernia repair. Patient history indicates that the patient had gastric bypass surgery in Mexico 8 months prior. Patient was discharged home after surgery.

Field Name (NACRS)	Field Number	Valid Data/Format
Project Number	145	750
Medical Tourism Flag	146	Y

6. 20 year male presents to Foothills Medical Centre Emergency Department complaining of pain and swelling of right forearm which is in a cast. He indicates he fractured his arm while vacationing in Cuba and had surgery there to reduce the fracture.

**This case does NOT meet the criteria for Medical Tourism as this was an unexpected event.**

7. 72 year old male vacationing in Hawaii suffers a myocardial infarction and undergoes coronary artery bypass surgery. 6 days post op he is discharged and returns to Calgary. The following day he is seen at the Rockyview General Hospital for atrial fibrillation.

**This case does NOT meet the criteria for Medical Tourism as this was an unexpected event.**