

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID-19)(NATIONAL
HEALTH INSURANCE) REGULATIONS 2020

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

(Legal Notice 27 of 2020)

REGULATION

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MADE by the Governor under section 4(1) of the Emergency Powers Ordinance and article 6(1) of the Emergency Powers (Overseas Territories) Order 2017 (*S. I. 2017 No. 181*), having consulted the Cabinet.

Citation, commencement and expiry

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Emergency Powers (COVID-19)(National Health Insurance) Regulations 2020 and shall come into operation on 2 April 2020.

(2) These Regulations shall expire at the end of one month from the date of commencement unless extended by the Governor for a specified further period in any particular case, by Notice published in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“beneficiary” has the meaning assigned to that term in section 2 of the National Health Insurance Ordinance;

“emergency” has the meaning assigned to that term in regulation 2 of the National Health Insurance (Benefit) Regulations;

“National Health Insurance Board” means the National Health Insurance Board established under section 12 of the National Health Insurance Ordinance;

“National Health Insurance Plan” means the National Health Insurance Plan established under section 3 of the National Health Insurance Ordinance;

“telemedicine” means the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients by means of telecommunications technology;

“uninsured person” means a person who is not insured under the National Health Insurance Ordinance;

“visitor” has the meaning assigned to that term in the Immigration Ordinance.

Modification of National Health Insurance (Overseas Referral Process) Regulations and the National Health Insurance (Benefit) Regulations

3. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the National Health Insurance (Overseas Referral Process) Regulations or the National Health Insurance (Benefit) Regulations, due to the impact of Covid-19 on countries worldwide, during the period of thirty days commencing with date of commencement of these Regulations, only beneficiaries requiring emergency medical treatment overseas shall be referred for treatment outside of the Islands

(2) Subject to subregulation (3), only cases identified by the referring physician as requiring emergency medical treatment overseas shall be referred for treatment outside of the Islands.

(3) The referring physician shall, by use of telemedicine, consult with and consider the recommendations of an overseas specialist physician selected by the National Health Insurance Board before making the determination that the emergency medical treatment must be delivered outside of the Islands.

(4) Subject to subregulations (1) and (2), access to medical service outside of the Islands shall continue to be in accordance with the procedure set out in the National Health Insurance (Overseas Referral Process) Regulations.

Overseas outpatient referrals, etc.

4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the National Health Insurance Ordinance or any Regulations made thereunder, overseas medical travel for routine outpatient visits, follow ups and elective surgeries shall be suspended for a period of thirty days commencing with the date of commencement of these Regulations.

Uninsured persons

5. (1) The National Health Insurance Plan shall cover emergency medical services, in the Islands, for persons not insured under the National Health Insurance Ordinance for a period of thirty days commencing with the date of commencement of these Regulations.

(2) Any tourist, visitor or person without legal status in the Islands, who requires tertiary level care will be provided air ambulance service (only) to their home country on humanitarian grounds.

MADE this 2nd day of April 2020.

**NIGEL DAKIN
GOVERNOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations put temporary measures in place for the referral of patients for medical treatment overseas, overseas outpatient referrals and follow ups.