APPENDIX G: Cross Regional Guidance

This document outlines considerations for cross regional placements and coordination. This includes:

This protocol applies to all Regional Intensive Treatment Networks (RITNs), hub and spoke sites, and partner agencies involved in:

- Out-of-region placements when local capacity is unavailable or specialized services are required
- Transitions between treatment settings across regional boundaries
- Access to cross-regional specialists including psychiatry, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and other specialized clinicians
- Coordination with Indigenous communities, Francophone services, and culturally specific programs
- Inter-jurisdictional service arrangements for youth with complex needs

Core Principles for Cross-Regional Collaboration:

- Youth and Family-Centred: All decisions prioritize the best interests and preferences of the young person and their family.
- Least Restrictive Environment: Treatment is provided in the setting closest to home that can meet clinical needs.
- Continuity of Care: Seamless transitions with warm handoffs prevent service disruption and relationship loss.
- Equity and Access: Geographic location does not determine access to quality services.
- Cultural Safety: Services respect and incorporate cultural, linguistic, and spiritual needs.
- Collaborative Accountability: All partners share responsibility for outcomes.

Out-of-Region Placement Protocol

Criteria for Out-of-Region Placement

Out-of-region placements should be considered when:

- Local and regional capacity cannot meet the youth's clinical needs within an appropriate timeframe
- Specialized programming required is not available within the home region
- Safety considerations necessitate distance from the home community
- Culturally specific services (Indigenous, Francophone, ethnocultural) are better accessed in another region
- Youth and family preference aligns with an out-of-region placement

Supporting Family Engagement Across Distance

When youth are placed outside their home region, specific supports must be in place:

- Transportation funding for family visits, including mileage reimbursement and accommodation support
- Robust virtual therapy infrastructure for regular family sessions
- Concentrated intensive family interventions during travel periods
- Flexible scheduling accommodating travel time and work commitments
- On-site family accommodation options for intensive intervention periods
- Technology supports ensuring families can participate in treatment planning remotely

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