

31-20(1)

The Honourable Lesa Semmler
Minister of Health and Social Services

Prenatal, Pregnancy and Postpartum Costs

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by the Member for Frame Lake on February 11, 2026, regarding Prenatal, Pregnancy and Postpartum Costs.

The Member asked about the average cost per appointment for prenatal care in the Northwest Territories and the average total cost of prenatal care per person throughout a pregnancy, and what specific services or line items are included in this calculation. The Member asked about the cost per day for a patient's admission to the hospital for birth and postpartum care and average cost of postpartum visits per person following discharge from the hospital.

The level of costing detail requested for these services is not available.

The Member also asked the average length of stay in hospital for birthing and postpartum care.

The average length of stay in the Hay River Health Centre is approximately eight to ten hours. This can extend to twenty-four hours or beyond depending on the individual case and could result in a medevac if required.

The average length of stay at Stanton Territorial Hospital is two days and four and a half hours. At Inuvik Regional Hospital, the average stay is two days, eight hours, and forty-six minutes. In Fort Smith, the average stay is significantly shorter at twelve hours and twenty-nine minutes.

Stanton Territorial Hospital and Inuvik Regional Hospital provide obstetrics services, while Fort Smith and Hay River provide midwifery services. Average lengths of stay are higher at obstetrics sites because they manage more complex births and often need to monitor mothers who have travelled from out of town. In addition, these locations have limited commercial accommodations available for new mothers to stay in after being discharged. As a result, mothers who cannot immediately return to their home community often remain in the hospital longer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.