

A formal arrangement between the Province and the Ontario Medical Association makes limited medical services available to the recipients of all types of public assistance, including former means-test old age pensioners now receiving the universal pension, and persons receiving old age assistance, blindness allowances, mothers' allowances, and unemployment relief. New applicants for the universal old age pension may qualify under the medical plan on a means-test basis. Recipients of Ontario's disabled persons' allowances (for permanently disabled persons 18 to 65 years of age) have also been included since the inauguration of this new category program in July 1952. The medical program includes the services of a physician in his office or the patient's home, necessary consultations, home confinements, certain diagnostic services and emergency drugs. With the exception of unemployment relief cases where the costs are shared equally by the Province and the responsible municipality, the Province assumes the costs of such services which are paid on a fee-for-service basis from a special fund.

Provincial per diem grants, which vary according to hospital size, are paid to all public hospitals on the basis of public-ward bed days. Special per diem grants are also made by municipalities on behalf of hospitalized indigent residents, including public assistance recipients.

Manitoba.—The Health Branch of the Department of Health and Public Welfare includes Sections of Extension Health Services, Preventive Medical Services, Environmental Sanitation, Laboratory Services and the Division of Psychiatric Services.

Local preventive health services including health and laboratory and X-ray units are operated by the Health Extension Section which recovers part of the costs from the municipalities served. Public health services, currently covering approximately one-third of the Province's population, are provided through 13 full-time units, each comprising a variable number of municipalities; another third of the population is covered by Winnipeg's health service facilities. In three health-unit areas, prepaid diagnostic X-ray and laboratory facilities have been organized. Outside the health-unit areas, the Provincial Nursing Service provides certain public health services. Mobile clinics provide dental services for children in rural areas.

Under a system of district organization for hospital facilities, 34 hospital districts have been established; all but two contain at least one general hospital augmented in many cases by one or more medical nursing units. Municipal prepayment plans for medical care operate in a number of medical-care districts.

Provincial mental institutions are operated at Winnipeg, Selkirk and Brandon and a school for the mentally defective at Portage la Prairie. Community mental health services are also conducted, including out-patient services at mental hospitals and child guidance clinics.

Provincially operated clinics provide preventive and treatment services for venereal disease. Tuberculosis control is administered by the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba and services include diagnostic and travelling clinics, chest X-ray surveys and a rehabilitation program. The Province assists in the program by maintaining a Central Registry of Tuberculosis and a follow-up service for discharged patients carried out by public health nurses. The cost of hospitalization and treatment in sanatoria is met by provincial grants. The Manitoba Cancer Relief and Research Institute, which is subsidized by the Province, administers all cancer activities. A free cancer biopsy service is available and diagnostic