

In a number of provinces, health insurance programs are administered by semi-autonomous boards or commissions, or by a separate department. Some report directly to a minister of health; others are under the jurisdiction of a deputy minister. Several provincial health insurance programs are operated directly by health departments.

In each province both institutional and ambulatory care for tuberculosis and mental illness are provided by an agency of the department responsible for health, with increasing attention to preventive services. Programs related to other particular health problems such as cancer, alcoholism and drug addiction, venereal diseases and dental conditions have been developed by government agencies, often in co-operation with voluntary associations. A number of provincial programs serve specific population groups such as mothers and children, the aged, the needy and those requiring rehabilitation.

Environmental health, involving education, inspection and enforcement of standards, is frequently shared by health departments and other agencies.

Public health or community health units are among the most decentralized. Some are responsible for local health education, school health and organized home care. Although local and regional involvement in health services has been concentrated in hospital planning and some public health aspects, several provinces have inaugurated district and regional boards.

5.5.1 Provincial health insurance plans

Following is a summary of provincial health insurance plans. These cover benefits provided in accordance with the program criteria of the federal Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act. Additional benefits are provided generally on a limited basis. Some such features of certain plans are: dental care for children, prescribed drugs for the elderly and persons with some particular illnesses, some services of health professionals other than physicians, some sight and hearing aids and rehabilitation services. The federal government is not contributing under federal health insurance legislation toward the costs of these additional benefits. However, it contributes toward the costs of certain health services under the extended health care services program such as nursing home and adult residential care, home care (health aspects) and ambulatory health care services.

This summary gives only the highlights of provincial plans and refers to the programs which were in effect on January 1, 1977. Standard medical and hospital benefits are listed, together with additional benefits. Information on details of the plans and on recent changes in coverage, premiums and authorized charges, if any, may be obtained from the provincial agencies responsible.

Except as otherwise indicated, there were no premiums or authorized charges. The provisions for assistance vary from province to province.

The summary does not include many services which are provided by provincial health departments on a universal basis (such as health unit services, institutional care for tuberculosis and mental patients, venereal disease control, some home care programs), nor does it include details of programs for social service recipients.

Newfoundland. *Medical care benefits:* all medically required services of medical practitioners and certain surgical-dental procedures undertaken by dental surgeons in hospitals. *Additional benefits:* children's dental health program available to children up to age 11. This program is administered by the health department.

Hospital in-patient benefits: standard ward and all approved available services. *Out-patient:* laboratory, radiological, and other diagnostic procedures, including the necessary interpretations; radiotherapy and physiotherapy where available, occupational therapy, where available, out-patient visits, emergency visits, operating room facilities including supplies, plaster casts, drugs and medical and surgical supplies administered in hospital.

Out-of-province benefits: same benefits as provided in the province.

Prince Edward Island. *Medical care benefits:* all medically required services of medical practitioners and certain surgical-dental procedures undertaken by dental surgeons in hospitals.

Hospital in-patient benefits: standard ward and all approved available services. *Out-patient:* laboratory procedures as specified, radiological procedures as specified, including use of radioactive