

There are authorized user charges for those 18 years of age and older of \$8 a day or \$240 a month for in-patient services in hospital centres for prolonged care, including prolonged care units in general hospitals. Graduated exemptions from these charges are made, depending on taxable income and number of dependents.

Ontario. The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is a combined hospital and medical care insurance plan administered by the health ministry. The plan normally requires payment of premiums by or on behalf of insured residents. It is semi-voluntary, but compulsory for employee groups of 15 or more persons resident in Ontario.

The premium amounts are \$20 a month for a single person and \$40 a month for a family of two or more, with premium exemption or assistance for those of 65 years or older or for families with a member of 65 or older, who have resided in the province for at least the 12 previous months, and for persons with limited income.

There are authorized charges of \$10.05 a day after 60 days for chronic, rehabilitative and convalescent care in hospitals and designated nursing homes. Certain exemptions are made from these charges for patients who meet specified criteria of health status, family status and income, and for those qualifying for particular general welfare and family benefits.

OHIP coverage, in addition to the insured services of the hospital insurance and medical care programs, includes extra benefits such as home care services and extended care in nursing homes and homes for the aged when regular nursing service and medical supervision are required. The extended care benefit is subject to a daily co-payment by the patient similar to an authorized charge for chronic patients receiving care. The extended care benefit is subject to a minimum requirement of 12 months' residence in the province.

The health ministry also administers a drug benefit plan for the elderly, for social assistance beneficiaries and for residents in nursing homes and homes for special care who are entitled to receive extended care.

Manitoba. A combined provincial hospital and medical care insurance plan, the Manitoba health services insurance plan, is administered by a single public authority, the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and is responsible to the provincial health minister. It is a non-premium plan providing coverage for all eligible residents.

The plan provides the insured services of the hospital insurance and medical care programs, and a broad range of services including care in personal care homes such as nursing homes and other designated facilities. The commission administers a nearly-universal prescription drug program, but social assistance recipients or other residents entitled to free prescription drugs under other federal or provincial programs are excluded.

Manitoba has a comprehensive continuing care program which co-ordinates access to institutional and home care services.

There are no user charges for hospital care within the scope of the hospital insurance program. Personal care services are an insured benefit for which Manitoba residents are subject to a charge of \$7 a day.

Saskatchewan. The medical care insurance plan is administered by a commission responsible to the provincial health minister. The Saskatchewan hospital services plan is administered by the health department. Both are non-premium plans and provide coverage for all eligible residents. The Swift Current health region administers its own medical care plan with the commission providing the region a basic per capita grant related to the per capita expenditure on behalf of other residents of the province. There are no authorized user charges for insured hospital services.

The medical care insurance plan provides benefits beyond the insured services of the medical care program. With certain exceptions such as registered Indians, Saskatchewan residents holding valid health services cards are eligible for a wide variety of other benefits administered by the health department. Saskatchewan has been a leader in introducing such benefits on a nearly universal basis, including a subsidized hearing aid plan, the provision of aids to independent living, a prescription drug plan, and a dental plan for children. The NHW medical services branch purchases such