

persons receiving old age assistance, blindness allowances, mothers' allowances, disabled persons' allowances and unemployment relief. New applicants for the universal old age pension may qualify under the medical plan on a means-test basis. 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, 52 hospital districts have been established; all but two contain at least one general hospital augmented in many districts 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 outpatient services at mental hospitals and child guidance clinics.

A provincially operated clinic at St. Boniface provides 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 services are provided to medically indigent rural residents. Radium and X-ray treatments are available without charge to rural residents and at a nominal charge to residents of Greater Winnipeg.

Laboratory services are provided through provincial laboratories at Winnipeg and Brandon. In addition the Department distributes to doctors, hospitals and government agencies, penicillin and other drugs for the treatment of venereal disease, insulin and other biologicals for indigents and antibiotics for tubercular patients.

The Provincial Government contributes a grant of \$1 per diem to general hospitals and lump sum grants to teaching hospitals. The government pays \$4.10 per day for patients in sanatoria to the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba.

Public assistance recipients in Manitoba are eligible for limited medical, dental and optical care, on a means-test basis, with the major share of the cost of services assumed by the responsible municipality. Hospital care is provided on a similar basis, municipalities making a per diem payment for persons with local residence, in addition to the provincial per diem grants. The Province assumes the cost of medical and hospital care provided to some indigents who are unable to establish local residence.