

select segments of the system, eight region hospital corporations were established to replace local hospital boards and management committees of health service centers in the province. A major portion of the reform process, which deals with identifying and managing the number, mix, and location of physician resources, was implemented in July 1992, with the region hospital corporations assuming responsibility for physician resources in their respective regions (6-9).

Earlier efforts to encourage physicians to locate in underserved areas of New Brunswick did not achieve the desired results. The most recent attempt, which was terminated when the physician resource management plan was put in place, was to pay general practitioners and specialists establishing practices more than 40 kilometers from the three major cities 110 percent of the approved fee schedule. General practitioners settling closer to the cities were paid 75 percent of the schedule (10,11).

The physician resource management plan in New Brunswick was based on recommendations of the Physician Resource Advisory Committee. The Hospital Master Plan 92, which specified the location of primary, secondary, elevated secondary, and tertiary services, served as the basis for determining the location of specialists in the province (12,13).