



The primary responsibility for health care and welfare, including hospitals and licensing of medical and para-medical personnel, as well as for direct welfare payments to individuals, rests with the provinces.

There are four federal-provincial arrangements through which these two levels of government share the costs of health and welfare services:

- The Medical Care Insurance Program – to cover costs of most medical services provided by private physicians.
- The Hospital Insurance Program – to cover costs of a variety of treatment services offered within hospitals.
- The Canada Assistance Plan – to provide financial assistance and institutional care for persons in need.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Program – services supplied to restore disabled persons to gainful employment.

The Federal Government, through the Department of National Health and Welfare, has jurisdiction in a variety of health and welfare matters. On the health side, some of its responsibilities include:

- protecting the public against health risks from food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices and operating quarantine controls and sanitary surveillance programs;