

Preventive public health services are provided through a number of health regions and are generally financed by the province and the municipalities.

Prepaid medical care is available in about 160 local areas through municipal doctor plans. In the southwestern region of Saskatchewan, Swift Current Health Region No. 1, operates a prepaid medical-dental care programme which supplies general practitioner and specialists' services, out-patient and radiological services and dental care for children under 12 years of age. The programme is financed by local residents through personal and property taxes.

Complete medical, dental and optical services and some drugs are provided at provincial expense to public assistance recipients, including persons and their dependents entitled to receive provincial supplementary allowances to old age security, blindness or mother's allowance and social aid, and to persons who are wards of the province. Other indigent persons receive necessary care at municipal discretion.

Alberta -- On July 1, 1958, the former Provincial-Municipal hospital Plan was brought into conformity with the federal-provincial hospital insurance programme and all residents of the province became eligible for in-patient hospital services with no waiting period. All persons, except maternity and cancer patients for specified periods of hospitalization and public assistance recipients, polio and approved arthritic patients for all days of care, are required to pay co-insurance charges varying from \$1.50 to \$2.00, according to size of hospital, for each day of care.

Free diagnostic and treatment services are available for cancer to qualified residents of the province. The provincial health department also operates diagnostic and treatment clinics for cerebral palsy and bears the cost of medical, surgical and hospital care and rehabilitation services for persons suffering from poliomyelitis as well as complete medical and hospital care for rheumatoid arthritis patients under age 35, and diagnostic treatment and hospital care for persons under 25 years of age suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. Diagnostic and treatment services are available without charge to persons suffering from venereal disease. The province pays the entire cost for tuberculosis patients; the costs of care for mental patients are borne mainly by the province, with some contribution from patients who are able to pay.

Medical, dental and optical and special treatment services are supplied without charge to old age security recipients qualified for the supplementary pension, old age assistance pensioners, persons in receipt of blindness, mother's or widow's allowances, and to their dependents. Other indigent persons receive necessary care at municipal discretion.