

Alberta: Medical and surgical services in home, office and hospital, and certain optical, dental and other services, are provided under the "health-service" plan sponsored by the province for recipients of the following public assistance benefits, and their dependants: old-age security (supplemental) allowance, old-age assistance, mothers' allowance, disabled persons' allowance, blindness allowance, and widows' allowance. Early in 1958, responsibility for health service for child wards of such persons was also assumed by the province. Physicians' services to recipients of local relief are provided at local discretion.

Persons suffering from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis receive free care; patients in mental hospitals who can afford to pay are charged a portion of the costs of care. Free treatment is available to cancer and poliomyelitis patients.

The Alberta Medical Plan, introduced on October 1, 1963, provides for government regulation to ensure that all residents may enrol voluntarily in private insurance plans. These plans must offer policies that are non-cancellable by the agency for all subscribers regardless of age or pre-existing conditions. Premium rates cannot exceed specified maxima. Families earning less than \$500 taxable income a year (e.g., a husband, wife and two children with total income from all sources of about \$2,800) are eligible to have up to 50 per cent of their premiums paid for by the government.

British Columbia: Medical and surgical services in home, office and hospital, dental and optical services, most drugs (on formulary), and surgical appliances are provided by the province through an agency of the B.C. Division of the Canadian Medical Association, the Social Assistance Medical Services. The following public-assistance recipients and their dependants are eligible: recipients of old-age security (supplemental) allowances, blindness and mothers' allowances, old-age assistance, and local and provincial recipients of relief. In addition, child wards of the provincial government and recipients of disabled persons' allowances (exclusive of their dependants) are covered for these services.

The province pays most of the cost of treating mental or tuberculosis patients, though patients able to pay are expected to make some contribution. Extensive cancer services, rehabilitation services for various other diseases and other special programmes are available without charge to indigents.

Municipal Health Services

The larger municipalities provide a range of basic health services, including sanitation, communicable-disease control, child, maternal and school health services, public-health nursing, health education and vital statistics. Services are often administered through local health units or districts, and may be jointly administered and financed in association with provincial health departments.

Voluntary Health Agencies

Voluntary agencies engage in educational work and fund collecting and in the provision of preventive, treatment and rehabilitation services. Those operating on a national basis are generally organized into provincial divisions with headquarters in the capital city of the province. National agencies include the Canadian Public Health Association, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Canadian Tuberculosis Association, the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, the National Cancer Institute, the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, the National Heart Foundation, the Canadian Council for Crippled Children and the Canadian Hearing Society. The Canadian Red Cross Society is actively concerned in a number of aspects of health work and operates a blood-plasma bank. The Victorian Order of Nurses and the St. John Ambulance Association provide nursing and emergency services.