

Mental Illness and Defect: Mental health divisions of the provincial health departments administer the public diagnostic and treatment services and assist the privately-operated services for the mentally ill and mental defectives. Community treatment facilities include out-patient mental health centres and psychiatric units of general hospitals that also provide short-term in-patient treatment. The large public mental hospitals, nearly all provincially operated, admit the majority of patients needing long-term care, and the public hospital schools for mental defectives, established in all but one province, care for the more severely retarded. In addition, specialized diagnostic and treatment services have been organized in the larger cities for emotionally-disturbed children, the mentally retarded, alcoholics and court offenders. Three treatment centres for drug addicts are operated in Ontario and British Columbia.

Cancer: Official and voluntary agencies in all provinces engage in cancer detection and treatment, public education and clinical research. Cancer control programmes have been established in the health departments in three provinces, while provincially-supported cancer foundations carry this responsibility in four provinces. With some variance among the provinces, a range of free diagnostic and treatment services is now available as a result of the federal Cancer Control Grant and the hospital insurance programmes; cancer clinics are located at the larger general hospitals in each province. The cancer-control programmes in Alberta, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick also pay for the costs of medical and surgical services; elsewhere, some of these costs are covered under the voluntary and public medical care insurance schemes.

Hospital Insurance

Services Provided: Under the federal-provincial hospital insurance and diagnostic services programmes, all provinces and territories make available, on a pre-payment or tax-financed basis, to all persons within their boundaries, standard ward accommodation and the services ordinarily supplied by a hospital, including meals, nursing, laboratories, radiological and other diagnostic procedures, and drugs. Care in mental and tuberculosis institutions is not included in the provincial programme, except in Ontario, but is provided under separate legislation.

Out-patient hospital benefits are allowable on an optional basis under federal legislation. The particular benefits provided, and the conditions under which they are available, vary widely from province to province.

Prince Edward Island and Alberta include as insured out-patient benefits all services that would normally be provided by a hospital to its in-patients, whereas British Columbia has opted to exclude insured out-patient benefits under its agreement with the Federal Government; nevertheless, emergency services and minor surgical procedures are included in this province's programme.

Elsewhere, arrangements are as follows. A feature of the out-patient benefits in most provinces is the inclusion of emergency services following on accident. Laboratory, radiological, and other diagnostic procedures, together with the necessary interpretations, are provided to out-patients in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.