

The Department of National Health and Welfare controls food and drugs including narcotics, administers quarantine and immigration medical services, carries out international health obligations, and provides health services to Indians, Eskimos, sick mariners and other groups. It serves in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity to the provinces and makes grants to certain national voluntary agencies. In addition it provides financial assistance for the development of provincial health and hospital services through the National Health Programme, and for provincial hospital insurance programmes under the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act of 1957, through which the Federal Government shares approximately half the costs with any province signing an agreement to provide a certain specified range of insured active treatment hospital services.⁽¹⁾ By January 1959, eight of the ten provinces expect to have hospital insurance schemes in operation under the programme. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland have had hospital insurance programmes for a number of years.

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- (1) For purposes of the Act hospital means an institution or other facility as prescribed in regulations which provides in-patient or out-patient services, but does not include
- (a) a tuberculosis hospital or sanatorium,
 - (b) a hospital or institution for the mentally ill, or
 - (c) a nursing home, a home for the aged, an infirmary or other institution the purpose of which is the provision of custodial care;

(The provinces provide free or practically free mental and tuberculosis hospital care under provincial programmes),

Services for in-patients include

- (a) accommodation and means at the standard or public ward level,
- (b) necessary nursing services,
- (c) laboratory, radiological and other diagnostic procedures together with the necessary interpretations for the purpose of maintaining health, preventing disease and assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of any injury, illness or disability,
- (d) drugs, biologicals and related preparations as provided in an agreement,
- (e) use of operating room, case room and anaesthetic facilities including necessary equipment and supplies,
- (f) routine surgical supplies,
- (g) use of radiotherapy facilities where available,
- (h) use of physiotherapy facilities where available,
- (i) services rendered by persons who receive remuneration therefor from the hospital, and
- (j) such other services as are specified in an agreement.