

Each province and territory makes at least some use of general tax revenues to finance its program. Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon finance entirely from this source.

Ontario raises a part of its cost by a premium combined with medical insurance of \$132 for single persons and \$264 for couples and families. Alberta levies an annual premium of \$69 for single persons and \$138 for families under the Health Insurance Premiums Act, which includes both hospital and medical insurance. The tendency in all "premium" provinces has been to combine hospital and medical insurance levies in the interests of administrative simplicity.

In Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, part of the financing is derived from use or admission fees. These fees, designated in the regulations as "authorized charges", are payable by the patient at the time of service and are deductible from provincial payments to hospitals. Alberta charges \$5 for the first day only of adult or child in-patient care in general hospitals, and in auxiliary hospitals \$3 a day after 120 days. British Columbia charges \$1 a day for in-patient care (except for newborn infants) and \$1 or \$2 for out-patient services, as previously mentioned. The Northwest Territories charges \$1.50 a day for in-patient care.

Medical-Care Insurance

In addition to hospital care under the hospital insurance and diagnostic services program, a number of other services, mainly those of physicians, are provided under a variety of prepaid arrangements.

Federal medicare legislation The Medical Care Act was passed by the Canadian Parliament in December 1966 and became operative July 1, 1968. The Federal Government contributes to participating provinces half the costs of insured services in provincial medical-care plans that satisfy the following criteria:

- a) A plan must be operated on a non-profit basis by a public authority subject to provincial audit.
- b) It must make available all medically-necessary services rendered by medical practitioners and insured services on uniform terms and conditions to all residents of a province; these services must be provided without exclusion because of age, ability to pay, or other circumstances.