

The appended table on waiting periods is not exhaustive since many irregular types of situation can be envisaged that do not fit the indicated parameters. The listing is intended to reflect general usage.(4)

In all provincial and territorial plans there can be no exclusions or limitations of membership or of benefits for reason of age, economic status or previous medical condition. The basic insured benefit is hospital care and physicians' services but some plans also insure, sometimes as an added option, such benefits as the services of optometrists, druggists for prescribed medicaments, physiotherapists, podiatrists (chiroprodists), chiropractors, osteopaths and naturopaths.

In addition to the medical examination of immigrants, the Department of National Health and Welfare helps immigrants obtain treatment after arrival in Canada. It pays for medical and dental care of unsponsored and indigent immigrants who become ill *en route* or while awaiting employment who do not qualify for provincial health services. In provinces that do not extend hospital care to immigrants, these costs are shared equally for a period not exceeding one year by agreement between the Department of Manpower and Immigration and the provincial governments.

Rehabilitation Services

Public and voluntary agencies provide rehabilitation services to disabled and handicapped persons, including remedial treatment, special education and vocational rehabilitation. The Federal Government is responsible for rehabilitation of disabled veterans and, in co-operation with the provinces, aid to handicapped natives -- Indians and Eskimos. Special services are established for handicapped children, blind persons, the mentally retarded and for persons handicapped by tuberculosis, psychiatric disorders, arthritis, paraplegia, cystic fibrosis and other conditions.

Medical rehabilitation, financed under the provincial hospital insurance and medical-care insurance plans, is available at 36 hospital rehabilitation units and at 15 separate in-patient rehabilitation centres. In addition, there are some 20 out-patient rehabilitation centres for children supported by voluntary agencies and provincial health departments. Workmen's compensation boards in five provinces operate rehabilitation centres for injured workmen. Twelve prosthetic-service centres, operated by the Department of National Health and Welfare, are established in the larger cities across the country. Universities offer courses in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, audiology and speech therapy and in prosthetics and orthotics.

Under a federal-provincial vocational rehabilitation program, provincial welfare departments arrange for handicapped persons to have assessment, counselling, vocational training and job placement as required. In some areas, local committees and voluntary agencies engage in finding jobs for the handicapped besides the Canada Manpower Centres (national employment offices).

(4) See Appendix following Page 24.