

NAFTA - HEALTH CARE

- ◆ Government health care and social services are protected.
- ◆ Licensing bodies in all three countries are encouraged to develop mutually acceptable professional standards but Canada is in no way required to weaken its standards.
- ◆ There is no obligation for provincial governments to open contracts for health-care management services to foreign bidders. Provincial procurement was not covered by the FTA, nor is it included in the NAFTA.
- ◆ There is no obligation to admit physicians to practise medicine in Canada.

AS A RESULT:

- ◆ Canada's high health-care standards are maintained and can be strengthened;
- ◆ The NAFTA improves upon the FTA by allowing professionals, including some health professionals but not medical practitioners, to work in NAFTA countries as long as licensing requirements are met; and
- ◆ Under the FTA, Canada and the U.S. retained the right to establish their own standards for the protection of public health and safety as long as those standards were not intended as barriers to trade. Those rights are maintained in the NAFTA.