

emergency transportation, usually at the discretion of the provincial authority. All such payments, including those initiated by municipalities, are sharable under the Canada Assistance Plan. Some of these benefits are now included under provincial medical-care insurance plans.

#### *Federal programs*

The Federal Government has usually provided a range of health benefits to needy war veterans, Indians and Eskimos.

These groups are now covered under provincial or territorial public hospital and medical-insurance plans, the Federal Government paying premiums and utilization fees in most instances. The Federal Government continues to provide such extended health care as is necessary where it is not among benefits of provincial health-insurance programs.

#### *Canada Assistance Plan*

The cost of health-care services provided to welfare recipients is shared with the Federal Government under the Canada Assistance Plan on the same basis as financial aid and welfare services (*see section entitled "Social assistance"*).

#### Immigrants

As already noted, all provinces have in operation insurance plans that, in the main, pay the full cost of virtually all medically-required hospital care and of physicians' services, whether rendered in the patients' home, in the doctor's office, or in hospital. The insured services include surgery and diagnostic tests. The normal waiting period for a new resident in a province is three months after establishing residence there. Some provinces, however, have arrangements for waiving this period. As an example, in Saskatchewan a landed immigrant may receive immediate coverage upon registration and payment of the premium.

Present practices of provincial hospital and medical-care plans vary, as regards waiting periods for landed immigrants of civilian status.

Generally, three categories of "immigrants" can be delineated. These are:

- (1) Landed immigrants with clearly-established residence in a specific province;
- (2) repatriated Canadians, returning Canadians, returning landed immigrants, and Canadian citizens establishing residence for the first time;
- (3) non-Canadian spouses (of Canadian residents) assuming residence in a province for the first time.