

Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)

The **Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)**, funded by Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and administered by Medavie Blue Cross, is a program that provides limited, temporary coverage of health-care benefits to specific groups of individuals. Medavie Blue Cross manages IFHP on behalf of IRCC.

COVERAGE & BENEFITS

The chart below provides an overview of the IFHP benefits. **Effective April 1st 2016, all resettled refugees are entitled to full IFHP coverage upon the day of arrival to Canada.** Newcomers with IFH Certificates issued prior to April 1, 2016 and still within one year from the date of issue are also entitled to full IFHP coverage. Certificates issued prior to April 1, 2016 do not need to be replaced to reflect coverage changes.

IFHP COVERAGE
<p>Basic Coverage – covered until provincial/territorial health coverage begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-patient and out-patient services • Services of licensed health care professionals (medical doctors, registered practitioners) • Pre- and postnatal care • Laboratory and diagnostic services • Ambulance <p>Supplemental Coverage - covered for duration of the sponsorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic dental and vision care • Prosthetics and devices to assist mobility • Home care and long-term care • Psychological counselling provided by a registered clinical psychologist • Post-arrival health assessments • Pre- and post-natal care <p>Prescription Drug Coverage:</p> <p>Covered for prescription medication and other pharmacy products included in the IFHP Prescription Drug Coverage Grid for duration of the sponsorship.</p>

These benefits are subject to **limits** and **maximum dollar amounts** with some treatments requiring pre-authorization. For more detailed information on IFHP Benefit Grids (coverage) and a list of services requiring pre-authorization, please visit: <https://provider.medavie.bluecross.ca>

IFHP ELIGIBILITY & ISSUANCE

All Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) beneficiaries are eligible for IFHP coverage for one year from the date the certificate of eligibility is issued by IRCC or a Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer. Effective April 11 2016, IFHP Certificates are issued for all resettled refugees by Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) upon arrival to Canada. Where IFH Certificates cannot be provided upon arrival, coverage should be issued by an IRCC officer shortly after arrival.

Note: It takes two business days from the day the Certificate is issued for the eligibility information to be reflected in the Medavie Blue Cross system.

FINDING A REGISTERED IFHP HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

To find a health care provider that is registered with Medavie Blue Cross and accepts IFHP insured clients, please visit the [‘Search IFHP Providers’](#) list on the Medavie Blue Cross website and select your province. **Only health care providers registered with Medavie Blue Cross are authorized to submit claims for reimbursement.** IFH Certificates are to be presented to health care providers each time a service and/or product is provided in order to confirm coverage.

PROCESSING CLAIMS

After determining a client’s eligibility for the service/product, the health care provider will need to submit the claim for payment to Medavie Blue Cross directly within six months of the date the service was provided. More information for health care providers on the claims submission procedures and guidelines can be found in the Information Handbook for Health Care Professionals (Medavie Blue Cross). The handbook can be accessed at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare/practitioners.asp>

Note: IFHP is not designed to reimburse beneficiaries directly. If a beneficiary pays for services/products covered by the IFHP, the individual cannot be reimbursed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For IFHP related matters: CIC_Inquiry@medavie.bluecross.ca or IFH-PFSI@cic.gc.ca

FURTHER RESOURCES

Medavie Blue Cross: <https://provider.medavie.bluecross.ca/>

IFHP Summary of Benefits: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp>

For more information about the benefits available: www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp

Please note that this information is current as of June 2016. If you have any questions, please contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) at 1.877.290.1701.