

ALL ABOUT *Health Care Coverage*

Are privately sponsored refugees eligible for provincial health care?

Sponsored refugees are immediately eligible for provincial/territorial health care coverage. Sponsored refugees are therefore encouraged to apply for provincial/territorial health care as soon as possible. For more information on provincial/territorial health insurance visit:



A young boy receives medical attention shortly after his arrival to Canada.

BC – Medical Services Plan

www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoben/eligible.html

AB – Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan

www.health.alberta.ca/AHCIP/health-care-insurance-plan.html

SA - Saskatchewan Health Services Card

www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca/health-card

MB – Manitoba Health

www.gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/#eligible

ON – Ontario Health Insurance Plan

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/ohip/

NS – Nova Scotia Health Card

(Medical Services Insurance - MSI)

www.gov.ns.ca/health/msi/

NFL - Medical Care Plan

www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/mcp/index.html

PEI – PEI Hospital and Medical Services Plan

www.gov.pe.ca/health

NB – New Brunswick Health Card

www.qnb.ca/0394/eligibility-e.asp

Privately sponsored refugees are exempt from the 3 month waiting period for provincial health insurance coverage

Are privately sponsored refugees eligible for the Interim Federal Health (IFH) Program?

If not receiving income support through RAP...

Yes, privately sponsored refugees are eligible for urgent and essential health services under IFH's Health Coverage plan. Medications and vaccines are also covered if they are needed to prevent or treat a disease that could risk public health or safety for the duration of the sponsorship.

If receiving income support through RAP...

Yes, sponsored refugees (e.g. JAS or under blended VOR) are eligible for IFH's Expanded Health Care Coverage plan. This plan covers hospital services, services of licensed health care professionals and laboratory, diagnostic and ambulance. It also provides supplemental coverage which includes prescribed medications, limited dental and vision, prosthetics, assistive devices, psychological counseling and home care for the duration of the sponsorship.

Basic IFH coverage is only provided until the sponsored person qualifies for provincial/territorial health insurance



Applying for IFH

IFH is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and administered by [Medavie Blue Cross](#). To apply for IFH, complete the IFH form, gather required documents and take pictures, and contact your local CIC office for details about their IFH registration procedure.

IFH registration forms can be found at:
www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/ifh.asp

What about other services not covered by provincial or IFH health coverage plans?

Dental care

When the cost of non-urgent dental health care is not covered by your provincial or territorial health insurance program, free or low cost dental care may be available based on age and/or net household income. Some of these programs are subsidized by the provincial government or municipality through the local public health unit or a community health clinic. For a listing of free and low-cost dental care programs by province visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/post-arrival/health.html>



CINOT (Children In Need of Treatment) provides free dental care to children up to the age of 17 in Ontario.

Prescription medication

Depending on the province or territory, the cost of prescription medication may or may not be covered under the public health insurance plan. When such costs are not covered, privately sponsored refugees who do not receive income support from the government through RAP may be eligible for subsidized drug benefit plans based on their net household income, age and nature of the disease or illness. For more information about such programs, consult the listing of alternative health services by province at <http://www.rstp.ca/en/post-arrival/health.html>

Psychological counseling, mental health support

The cost of psychological counseling is not covered for beneficiaries of IFH's Health Coverage plan. Apart from hospital-based psychiatric services and the services that a general physician can provide, support can be received from a variety of community-based mental health programs including individual and group counseling, support groups, psychiatric consultation, family support, case management, alternative healing and referrals. For a list of community-based mental health service providers, contact your local 211 or community directory or browse service providers by province at <http://www.rstp.ca/en/post-arrival/health.html>