



Information Sheet: The Interim Federal Health Program

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

Duration of Coverage for Resettled Refugees

The IFHP provides basic coverage (for example, doctor visits and hospital care) **for a maximum of three months**. This coverage serves as a bridge to provincial/territorial public health insurance plans. The IFHP also provides supplemental coverage (such as mental health services, limited vision care, and urgent dental care) and prescription drug coverage.

Supplemental and prescription drug coverage is provided for as long as the refugee is under government or private sponsorship, **with initial coverage being issued for 12 months upon arrival**. This coverage may be extended for up to **additional 12 months**, provided the refugee continues to receive government or private sponsorship for the same period.

Resettled refugees are provided with an **IFHP Certificate of Eligibility** by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) upon arrival in Canada at Port of Entry. Where IFHCs 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 that are registered with Medavie Blue Cross are authorized to submit claims for reimbursement.

The IFHP Certificate of Eligibility must be presented to health care providers together with a government issued picture ID each time a service and/or product is provided in order to confirm coverage.

Note: The IFHP is not designed to reimburse beneficiaries directly. If a beneficiary pays for





services/products covered by the IFHP, the individual **cannot be reimbursed**.

Snapshot of IFHP Benefits

As of April 1, 2016, all resettled refugees, including government-assisted refugees and privately sponsored refugees, are eligible for the same level of coverage under the IFHP. The chart below provides an overview of the IFHP benefits:

IFHP COVERAGE		
BASIC COVERAGE	SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE	PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE
<p>Medical services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Doctor visits ✓ Standard immunizations ✓ Prenatal and obstetrical care ✓ Lab tests and x-rays <p>Hospital services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Emergency room visits ✓ Hospital stays ✓ Medical and surgical care ✓ Diagnostic imaging 	<p>Limited Vision Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ One pair of eyewear (glasses and/or lenses every 2 years) ✓ One vision test per year <p>Urgent Dental Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Emergency dental exams ✓ Dental x-rays ✓ Extractions ✓ Dentures <p>Mental Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Psychological counselling, including services from allied health-care practitioners <p>Assistive devices, medical supplies and equipment.</p>	<p>Prescribed medication and other pharmacy products.</p>

IFHP Pre-Departure Medical Services

On April 1, 2017, the IFHP was expanded to include coverage of certain medical services for refugees selected for resettlement to Canada prior to arrival. As of this date, resettled refugees are no longer required to pay, either directly or through the IRCC loan program, for the cost of services or products related to the Immigration Medical Examination (IME). For more information on the scope of PDMS, please visit: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/pdms.asp>

Further Resources:

Medavie Blue Cross: <http://web.medavie.bluecross.ca/en/health-professionals/resources>

IFHP Policy: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/laws-policy/ifhp.asp>

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

Questions & Answers:

- For Refugees: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?st=33.1>
- For Health-Care Providers: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?st=33.2>

