



# Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)

## Information for Refugees & Protected Persons

### What is the IFHP?

As a refugee or protected person, you cannot access health insurance from the government until you are a permanent resident or Canadian citizen.

To help you access health care, Canada created the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). The IFHP is a program that covers most of your health care costs until you can receive health insurance from the government.

The IFHP is managed by a health organization named Medavie Blue Cross.

To learn more about the organization, see [medaviebc.ca](https://medaviebc.ca).



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SOUTH FRASER  
**Refugee  
Readiness Team**

# What does the IFHP cover?

## Basic health coverage

- Health services provided by health care professionals (such as medical doctors or registered nurses)
- All hospital services (including overnight stays)
- Pregnancy care and checkups for mother and baby
- Ambulance services
- Certain prescription drugs (find out which ones at [pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc.ca/Search.xhtml](http://pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc.ca/Search.xhtml)).

## Supplemental health coverage

- Necessary vision and dental care
- Home care and long-term care from personal caregivers or nurses
- Medical supplies and equipment



## Medical tests and checkups required before and after arrival

- Medical services needed before arriving to Canada (such as vaccinations and immunizations)
- ONE immigration medical exam

## Mental health services

- Therapy sessions and counselling
- Medications prescribed by a mental health professional



## When does the IFHP NOT provide coverage?

If you already have a health care plan that covers all or some of your health care costs, then you cannot receive coverage from the IFHP.

# What to know BEFORE visiting my health care provider

**TIP: You can ask a settlement organization to help you with the instructions on this page.**



**First, contact your health care provider and ask:  
“Are you registered with the IFHP?”**

## **If their answer is YES:**

Bring any ONE of the following documents with you on your visit to provide proof of eligibility to the provider:

- "Acknowledgement of claim and notice to return for interview" letter
- Refugee protection claimant document
- Interim federal health certificate



## **If their answer is NO:**

Search for another provider who does participate in the IFHP.

- Link to the list of participating providers here:  
[ifhp.medaviebc.ca/en/providers-search](http://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/en/providers-search)

## **If their answer is UNSURE:**

You can ask your provider if they are a member of Medavie Blue Cross.

- If they are, then you can tell them that they are automatically qualified to submit bills to the IFHP and receive reimbursements.

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT SERVICES OR TREATMENT FROM  
A PROVIDER WHO DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE IFHP!**

## **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

**Contact Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's call centre at**

 **1-888-242-2100**

# What to know AFTER visiting my health care provider

After your visit, your health care provider will give you a form like the one shown below. You must sign the form to prove you were given a service or product.

The health care provider will send the completed form to Medavie Blue Cross (this is not your responsibility).

**TIP: If you are sent a letter from Medavie Blue Cross that asks you if you received a service or treatment, answer "Yes," follow the instructions on the letter and return it as directed.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Do I have to apply to the IFHP myself?

You DO NOT need to apply for the IFHP. Your refugee status activates your coverage automatically.

### What would prevent me from accessing the IFHP?

- Your refugee claim was denied, AND you can't apply for Pre-Removal Risk Assessment
- Your refugee claim is withdrawn or abandoned
- You leave Canada

### Will I ever need to pay for a service or treatment if my provider is registered with the IFHP?

You will NOT NEED TO PAY for any service or treatment that should be FULLY COVERED (see Basic Health Coverage on page 4) by the IFHP.

### Will I receive any money back if I pay for a service or treatment that should be covered by IFHP?

No! You will NOT receive money back if you pay a provider out of your own pocket, even if they are under the IFHP!

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



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