



THE IFHP: IMPORTANT TO KNOW

INFORMATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

IFHP: INTERIM FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAM

WHAT HEALTHCARE IS ACCESSIBLE WITH THE IFHP?

BASIC COVERAGE

Similar to RAMQ coverage.

Details: https://bit.ly/basic_coverage

	- In-patient and out-patient hospital services.	RESETTLED, ASSISTED, AND SPONSORED REFUGEES While waiting for RAMQ, up to a maximum of 3 months after arrival. REFUGEE CLAIMANTS Throughout processing of the refugee claim and then, - if the claim is accepted, for a maximum of 90 days after acceptance or until the RAMQ card is received; - if the claim is rejected, until the deportation date.
	- Midwifery services, up to \$3042.	
	- Services from medical doctors. However, surgery for esthetic or religious purposes, non-urgent surgery, and gender-confirming surgery is not covered. Orthopedic surgery is limited to short-term care or surgery affecting a child's development.	
	- Laboratory, diagnostic and ambulance services.	
	- Costs of transportation by ambulance, up to \$350.	

SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE

Similar to the coverage given to welfare recipients.

Details: https://bit.ly/supplement_coverage

	- Limited dental care.	GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED REFUGEES While the refugee receives income support benefits (resettlement assistance program), generally up to 12 months after arrival. In some cases, income support can be extended up to 24 months, in which case IFHP coverage continues. SPONSORED REFUGEES While the refugee receives financial support from the sponsorship group, up to 12 months after arrival. REFUGEE CLAIMANTS Same as basic coverage.
	- Limited vision care.	
	- Home care and long-term care.	
	- Services provided by allied healthcare practitioners, including psychologists, occupational therapists, speech language therapists, audiologists, and physiotherapists.	
	- Assistive devices, medical supplies and equipment.	

PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE

Similar to the coverage given to welfare recipients.

Details: https://bit.ly/prescription_drug_coverage

	- Prescription drugs and other products listed on provincial drug plan formularies.	RESETTLED REFUGEES AND REFUGEE CLAIMANTS Same as supplemental coverage.
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COVERAGE OF THE IMMIGRATION MEDICAL EXAM (IME)

	- IME and IME-related diagnostic tests.	REFUGEE CLAIMANTS The IME must be carried out by an IRCC panel physician within 30 days of the refugee claimant's arrival.
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If the service or product is covered by the IFHP, you are not required to pay.

1

In principle, you have the right to receive all healthcare covered by the IFHP free of charge. This includes most medical care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. Many other services and products are also covered (see table).

If the healthcare practitioner is registered with Medavie Blue Cross as an IFHP service provider, they do not have the right to ask you for money for services and products covered by the IFHP.

On the other hand, a healthcare practitioner who is not registered as an IFHP service provider can ask you to pay or, alternatively, refuse to provide services. If you pay them, you will not be reimbursed. It is thus important to try to find a healthcare practitioner who is an IFHP service provider.

2

As long as you are an IFHP recipient, you should have access to all the products and services indicated in the table above, whether or not your need is urgent.

You have the right to healthcare, whether or not it is urgent.

3

Always check ahead of time that the healthcare practitioner you plan to see is registered as an IFHP healthcare provider.

Before making an appointment or buying medical products, check whether the healthcare practitioner you plan to see is registered with the IFHP: <https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/en/providers-search>

Check each time you see a doctor or buy a product. In some cases, some healthcare practitioners in a clinic are registered with the IFHP while their colleagues are not.

If you do not check, it may turn out that the healthcare practitioner is not with the IFHP and will charge you for the medical products or services.

4

For refugee claimants waiting for a decision: the IFHP does not have an expiry date.

Your IFHP coverage is valid while you wait for a decision on your refugee claim.

If your refugee claim is accepted: your IFHP will be extended for a maximum of 90 days or until you get your RAMQ card;

If your refugee claim is rejected: your IFHP remains valid until your deportation date.

5

The IFHP also covers some mental health care.

You can see a psychiatrist free of charge if they are registered as an IFHP provider.

The IFHP also covers psychotherapy with a psychologist or psychotherapist belonging to the Ordre des psychologues du Québec (Order of Psychologists of Quebec). You must first consult a medical doctor who will decide whether to refer you for psychotherapy. Then, the psychologist or psychotherapist will make an initial assessment to get authorization to provide you with free psychotherapy.

For psychotherapy, the IFHP covers up to 10 one-hour sessions. To extend the therapy, the psychologist or psychotherapist must request authorization from Medavie Blue Cross, with a new referral from the doctor.

6

You have the right to an interpreter in some cases.

For some mental health care: if needed, you can ask for interpretation services for your psychiatry or psychotherapy/counselling sessions. Interpreters must be registered with the IFHP to get reimbursed.

Health assessment for resettled refugees: in the case of resettled refugees who get government resettlement services and have a post-arrival health assessment, the IFHP pays for medical translation services of up to two hours.

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