

# INFORMATION SHEET: ASYLUM CLAIMANTS AND THE INTERIM FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAM

As an asylum claimant, you have access to the **Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)**, which provides short-term health-care coverage funded by the Government of Canada.

You will find general information about the program below. If you have more questions, please visit: <https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/>.



## SERVICES COVERED BY THE IFHP INCLUDE:

### BASIC COVERAGE

#### Hospital Care

- Emergency room visits
- Hospital stays
- Medical and surgical care
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency ambulance

#### Medical Services

- Doctor and nurse visits
- Standard vaccinations
- Medical care before, during, and after birth
- Lab tests and X-rays

### IMMIGRATION MEDICAL EXAMINATION

- The cost of one in-Canada Immigration Medical Exam

### SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE

#### Prescription Medication Coverage

- Prescription medications and products

#### Limited Vision Care

- Eye exams
- Eyewear

#### Urgent Dental Care

- Emergency dental exams
- Dental X-rays
- Tooth removals
- Dentures

#### Mental Health Counselling

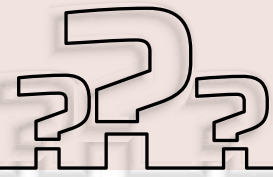
- Counselling, including services from registered health-care specialists

#### Other Services

- Occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language therapy
- Assistive devices like prosthetics, mobility aids and hearing aids
- Home care
- Medical supplies and equipment

**Note:** As of May 1, 2026 the IFHP is introducing co-payments on in-Canada supplemental health benefits. Detailed coverage info can be found here: <https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/en/benefit-grids>.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What do I need to do to access IFHP services?

Show your proof of IFHP eligibility document. This document proves that you are covered for IFHP and you must show it to your health-care provider each time you visit.

**Note:** a list of the eligibility documents that prove you are covered by IFHP can be found below.

- Make sure your health-care provider is registered with the IFHP before making an appointment.
- You may want to register for the Secure Beneficiary Web Portal at <https://ifhp-beneficiary.medaviebc.ca> to view information about your coverage and search for IFHP health-care providers. To register, you'll need your Unique Client Identifier (UCI) number, which can be found on your IRCC documents. The UCI is either an eight or ten-digit number, and looks like: 0000-0000 or 00-0000-0000.



### Which document proves that I'm covered by the IFHP?

When you claimed asylum you were provided with one of the documents below:

- Acknowledgement of Claim and Notice to Return for an Interview (AOC);
- Refugee Protection Identity Document (RPID) or Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) (with photo); or
- Interim Federal Health Program Certificate (IFHC) (with or without a photo).

You will need to sign the document (except for the Acknowledgment of Claim) and show it to access IFHP services.

### Where do I get health-care services?

You can get health-care services anywhere in Canada from any health-care provider registered with the IFHP. Please refer to the table below for help with finding a registered health-care provider.

- If a health provider is not registered with IFHP, the provider can easily register by following this link: <https://www.medaviebc.ca/en/health-professionals/register>.



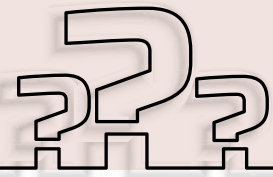
### How long am I covered for?

You are covered for Basic, Supplemental and Prescription Medication coverage:

- while you wait for a decision to be made on your asylum claim;
- up to 90 days after your claim is accepted, or when you become eligible for provincial or territorial health insurance; or
- until you leave Canada.

Your IFHP coverage will be cancelled immediately if:



- you withdraw your asylum claim;
- the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) finds your claim to be abandoned, meaning that you cannot proceed with your claim; or
- it is decided that your claim is ineligible and you are not eligible for a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA).

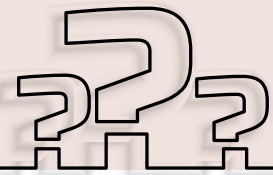




## Do I have to pay for health-care services myself?

- As of May 1, 2026, you will pay \$4 per eligible prescription medication filled or refilled, and 30% of the cost of all other eligible supplemental health services and products. You will pay these amounts directly to your health-care provider. You will not be reimbursed by the IFHP for any costs paid to the health-care provider.
- Before seeking care, you should make sure your health-care provider is registered with the IFHP (Medavie Blue Cross) and ask about any costs that you may need to pay. You should never be asked to pay the entire cost of IFHP-eligible products and services to your health-care provider.
- Eligible basic health-care benefits such as doctor visits and hospital care are free-of-charge under the IFHP, with no co-payments required.
- If you pay for IFHP basic health-care benefits or more than your co-payment share for supplemental benefits, you will not be reimbursed.
- The IFHP **does not** cover the cost of health-care services or products that a person may claim (even in part) under a public or private health insurance plan.

## Am I eligible for public health insurance if I have a work permit?

- If you have a work permit, you may be eligible to apply for public health insurance in your province or territory of residence, along with extended health benefits through social assistance programs. You can check with the Ministry of Health in your province or territory (<https://www.Canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-cards.html>) to confirm. If you are eligible, we encourage you to apply so you can begin benefitting from those services. 
- You may also be eligible for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) if you have filed taxes in Canada. This national dental care plan offers a broader suite of oral health benefits compared to the IFHP. You can confirm your eligibility by visiting the CDCP website: <https://www.Canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html>. 



For help with	Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about benefits and services you are eligible for</li> <li>• Confirming a claim payment or benefit pre-approval</li> </ul>	<p>Medavie Blue Cross:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone: 1-888-614-1880 (in Canada only)</li> </ul> <p>Bell Relay Service (BRS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TTY: 1-800-855-0511 (Voice to TTY)</li> <li>• 711 (TTY to Voice)</li> <li>• 1-800-855-1155 (TTY to TTY)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about IFHP eligibility status and how long it's valid</li> </ul>	<p>IRCC Help Centre – IFHP Coverage:  <a href="https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=1275&amp;top=33">https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=1275&amp;top=33</a></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding a health-care provider registered with the IFHP</li> </ul>	<p>IFHP Providers Search:  <a href="https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/en/providers-search">https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/en/providers-search</a></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about the status of your refugee application or IFHP eligibility documents</li> </ul>	<p>IRCC Help Centre: <a href="https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre">https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre</a></p> <p>IRCC Web form: <a href="https://www.Canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/web-form2.html">https://www.Canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/web-form2.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone: 1-888-242-2100 (in Canada only)</li> </ul> <p>Bell Relay Service (BRS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TTY: 1-800-855-0511 (Voice to TTY)</li> <li>• 711 (TTY to Voice)</li> <li>• 1-800-855-1155 (TTY to TTY)</li> </ul> 