

Canadian Medical System

The Allies in Action Project educates newcomers to Canada about domestic abuse/family violence and how to maintain healthy family relationships.

A Few Important Facts about Health and Health Care in Canada

- **Question:** How many provincial and territorial health care insurance plans do we have in Canada?

Answer: 13

Each province and territory manages its own health care insurance plan.

- See [Government of Canada: Canada's Health Care System](#)

- **Question:** What are the three leading causes of death in Canada?

Answer: Cancer, Heart Disease, and Stroke

In 2012, 74 000 Canadians died from cancer, which represents 30% of all deaths in Canada that year. The most common type of cancer, for both men and women, is lung cancer.

Resource:

- [Worldatlas: Leading Causes Of Deaths In Canada](#)

- **True or False:** If you (an adult) go to a Walk-In Clinic and ask for a full check-up, even though you have no symptoms of sickness, you may be asked to pay for the cost of the check-up.

Answer: True

MSP BC no longer pays doctors to provide full check-ups on patients who have no symptoms of sickness.

Resource:

- Mullholland (2018). [Is an annual physical necessary? The doctor is out on that one...](#)

- **Question:** Imagine you travel to visit a friend in Quebec. While you are there, you get sick and so you go to the doctor. Will you have to pay?

Answer: Yes

If you travel to another province or territory (outside of BC), other provinces and territories (except Quebec) will bill their own provincial health plan for services provided – but only if you show your MSP card! So remember to take it with you when you travel.

- See Province of British Columbia, "[Medical Benefits Outside of B.C.](#)"

- **Question:** Imagine you travel to Ontario. While you are there, you fall and get hurt. You go to the doctor, who writes you a prescription. In BC, you have Fair Pharmacare, so you usually don't pay much for the prescription. Will BC Fair Pharmacare cover your prescription from Ontario?

Answer: No.

PharmaCare does not provide coverage for prescription drugs or medical supplies when obtained outside B.C. The Province of BC recommends that you purchase private/travel insurance before you travel.

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