



BC Cancer Agency

CARE + RESEARCH

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Other Resources

Coping with Cancer

www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-info/coping-with-cancer

First Nations Health Authority

1.855.550.5454

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

1.866.866.0800

Patient & Family Counselling Services Programs

[www.bccancer.bc.ca/our-services/services/
patient-family-counselling](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/our-services/services/patient-family-counselling)



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Healthcare insurance information when moving to BC



Some people who move to BC from another province or country may find that they require cancer treatment at the BC Cancer Agency and do not yet have BC Health Insurance coverage.

Please consider the following information:

- There is an Interprovincial Health Insurance agreement (except with Québec), which covers only approved medical costs between the provinces. Refer to your current provincial plan for details. Any drugs, procedures and other medical related costs not covered by the provincial plan are the responsibility of the patient
- Check with any private insurance providers such as employer extended benefits to see if they will reimburse for additional costs not covered by the provincial plan
- Keep all receipts for medical expenses because they may be eligible to be submitted when completing your income tax return
- Apply for Health Insurance BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) as soon as possible after moving to BC. It takes the rest of the month and another two full months for coverage to come into effect
- Apply for Fair PharmaCare as soon as you obtain MSP benefits. In Vancouver, call 604.683.7151 or toll-free call 1.800.663.7100 or apply online

When applying for Fair PharmaCare be aware:

You need to return the consent form in order for Fair PharmaCare to communicate with Canada Revenue Agency for coverage to continue

Fair Pharmacare benefits are based on income tax return from two years prior

For instances where someone is not yet registered or approved for Fair PharmaCare and is requiring Palliative Care Benefits coverage, a physician may request a special exception on Palliative Care Benefits application form

If you move to BC from another country and are waiting for Health Insurance BC coverage:

- Private insurance coverage is required for all out of country patients while waiting to obtain coverage from Health Insurance BC. Be aware of any policy limitations such as “pre-existing conditions” that may affect compensation
- A deposit will be required from the BC Cancer Agency Finance Department for patients who do not have appropriate healthcare insurance. Once the referral is accepted, the BC Cancer Agency Finance Department will contact the patient for a deposit
- If due to exceptional medical circumstances, a patient would like to appeal to Medical Services Plan to waive the waiting period, mail or fax the following items to:

Director of Medical Services Operations and Policy,
Ministry of Health,
3-1 1515 Blanshard Street,
Victoria BC, V8W 3C8
or Fax: 250.952.3133

a letter from the beneficiary outlining any extenuating medical circumstances prompting the request

a completed Financial Statement Form from www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoben/pdf/financial-statement.pdf

copies of all health care bills or receipts that pertain to care received during the waiting period

a letter from a physician or hospital confirming the diagnosis and when the diagnosis was made, and outlining the treatment plan for the wait period and the patient’s prognosis

For Health Insurance BC eligibility requirements refer to www.health.gov.bc.ca