



ALBERTA HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PLAN (AHCIP)

Overview

Updated: October 30, 2014

Eligibility

An eligible resident of Alberta is a person who is:

- Legally entitled to be or to remain in Canada and makes his/her permanent home in Alberta;
- Committed to being physically present in Alberta for at least 183 days in a 12 month period;
- Not claiming residency or obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another province, territory or country;
- Any other person deemed by the regulations to be a resident not including a tourist, transient or visitor to Alberta.

Note: Individuals coming to Alberta on visas or permits from Citizenship and Immigration Canada may be eligible for AHCIP coverage, depending on the type of immigration document they have, the length of time on the document and their commitment to reside in Alberta for 12 consecutive months.

AHCIP coverage is valid from the date signed (or the date of your arrival into Alberta whichever is later) until the expiry date noted on your work permit that was submitted to Alberta Health when you applied. If your work permit has been renewed or extended, please provide Alberta Health with a copy of the new work permit in order to extend or reinstate your AHCIP coverage.

- If Alberta Health does not receive a copy of your renewed or extended work permit, your AHCIP coverage will be cancelled on the expiry date noted on the previous work permit. You may submit a copy of your renewed or extended work permit by mail, or by visiting an authorized registry agent (original documents are required at the registry office).

When your Canada entry document expires, your AHCIP coverage will end. If your documents are extended then you must advise AHCIP in order for the coverage to be extended. If your Canada entry document changes from a work or study permit to a visitor permit, you may no longer be eligible for AHCIP coverage.

Foreign Students

If you are a student from outside Canada, you may be eligible for AHCIP coverage. Students under 18 years of age must be added to the AHCIP account of a custodian.

- Students who have a 12 month Study Permit (valid for an Alberta educational institute) and who will reside in Alberta for 12 months or more are eligible for AHCIP coverage.
- Students with Study Permits valid for more than 3 months, but less than 12 months, may be eligible for AHCIP coverage if their application is accompanied by a letter from the student confirming their intent to reside in Alberta for at least 12 months.
- If the application is received within 3 months of entry into Alberta, coverage is effective on the date of either entry into Alberta or the date signed on the Study Permit, whichever is later.

Temporary workers/extended work permits

(Minimum 6 month permits)

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- If Alberta Health does not receive a copy of your renewed or extended work permit, your AHCIP coverage will be cancelled on the expiry date noted on the previous work permit. You may submit a copy of your renewed or extended work permit by mail, or by visiting an authorized registry agent (original documents are required at the registry office).

Adding and Removing Dependents

Babies born in Alberta to a non-resident of Alberta are not considered residents of Alberta and are therefore not eligible for coverage with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

Children are registered as dependants, if they are:

- Single children under the age of 21 and wholly dependent on the parent(s), including adopted children, foster children (if an income tax deduction was claimed) and wards of the court. In cases of separation or divorce, the custodial parent registers the children. In cases of joint custody, children are registered on the account of one or the other parent, but not both, as agreed to by both parents;
- Single children who are 21 years of age or older and wholly dependent on the parent(s) because of physical or mental disabilities;
- Single children who are under 25 years of age and enrolled in three or more courses at an accredited educational institute.

Married spouses must register together.

Divorced spouses must register separately.

Wait period

If you are moving to Alberta from elsewhere in Canada, you are eligible for AHCIP coverage on the first day of the third month following your date of arrival. You should register within 3 months of arrival. If you apply later, the effective date of your coverage will be determined when you register.

[If you are moving or returning to Alberta from outside Canada, you might be eligible for coverage on the date of your arrival. You must register within 3 months of arrival. Newcomers to Canada are required to present a copy of their Canada entry document along with their other supporting documents.](#)

[If your dependants plan to join you in Alberta later, you should maintain coverage for your family and yourself at the location where your dependants still live. Contact us for more information if your dependants do not intend to move here within 12 months of your arrival.](#)

If you apply for AHCIP coverage for yourself and your family within 3 months of their arrival, coverage will be effective on the first day of the third month after they arrive.

Temporary Workers/ extended work permits (minimum 6 month permits) AHCIP coverage is valid from the date signed (or the date of your arrival into Alberta whichever is later) until the expiry date noted on your work permit that was submitted to Alberta Health when you applied.

Coverage during wait period

New residents from other parts of Canada should maintain coverage with their former medical plan during the wait period. New or returning residents arriving from outside Canada should contact a private insurance company (Cowan) for coverage during this period.

Documents (photocopies) required with application

- What to bring when you register at an authorized registry agent office
Completed AHCIP Coverage application form. The application form is also available at registry agent offices or by mail if you contact us.
- Bring original documents to an approved registry agent office.
Processing time can take up to 5 days.

What to send when you register by mail

- Completed AHCIP Coverage application form
- Send photocopies (front and back as applicable) of your documents.
- Mail the information to AHCIP
Processing time can take up to 6 weeks.

Where to Register

Albertans can register for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) and update their information at authorized registry agent offices across the province at no cost (free). See link for locations nearest you. <http://www.health.alberta.ca/AHCIP/registration-locations.html>

How to enrol

Albertans can register for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) and update their information at authorized registry agent offices across the province at no cost (free). See link for locations nearest you. <http://www.health.alberta.ca/AHCIP/registration-locations.html>. You must complete an AHCIP Coverage application form. The application form is also available at registry agent offices or by mail if you contact them.

Changes that affect your coverage

Up-to-date information is key to obtaining health services.

Make sure your health care registration information is current. Update your information if you:

- Change your name and/or marital status
- Change your mailing address
- Change the status of dependant(s) for persons who no longer qualify as a dependant on your account
- Add a new dependant

To change a name, address or add or remove family members, fill out the applicable Notice of Change form, and bring it to an authorized registry agent office, or send it to Alberta Health, contact information can be found at the end of this document.

Turning 21

If you are between 21 and under 25 years of age you may be covered on your parent/legal guardian's account if you are single and in full-time attendance at an accredited educational institute. If this is the case, please have your parent or guardian visit an authorized registry agent office or contact us.

If you are not a student, or you are a part-time student between the age of 21 and under 25 years of age, you must be set up on your own AHCIP account. If this is the case, you will need to visit an authorized registry agent office or contact us. Please note that if you are set up on your own AHCIP account, your personal health care number will remain the same. There are no premiums for AHCIP coverage.

Cancelling your coverage -absences from country

If you move out of Alberta or if an Albertan member of your family dies, please notify the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP), contact information can be found at the end of this document.

If you are leaving Alberta, ensure your AHCIP coverage is cancelled.

- Contact the AHCIP with your full name; personal health care number and forwarding address in-person at an authorized registry agent office, or by mail, fax, or telephone. **Do not email this information.**
- You are covered by the AHCIP for the balance of the month in which you leave, and for the next two consecutive months. This ensures continuous coverage until you are eligible for health insurance in your new location in Canada.

What is covered?

Basic services covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan are:

- Examinations
- Medically required surgery
- Standard Ward Hospitalization
- Medically necessary use of a semi-private or private room
- Private nursing care, ordered by the attending physician and meeting the hospital's by-laws
- Pacemakers, steel plates, pins, joint prostheses, valve implants and any goods approved by the Minister (unless they are enhanced goods and services)
- Accommodation and meals at the standard or public ward level
- Necessary nursing services
- Laboratory, radiological and other diagnostic procedures (including interpretation) to maintain health, prevent disease and help diagnose/treat any injury, illness or disability
- Drugs, biologicals and related preparations administered in a hospital (as specified in the Hospitalization Benefits Regulation)
- Use of operating room, case room and anaesthetic facilities, plus the necessary equipment and supplies • Routine surgical supplies
- Use of radiotherapy facilities
- Use of physical therapy facilities
- Services supplied by persons being paid by the hospital Hospitalization Benefits (In-patients)
- Transporting a patient in Alberta by ambulance or other commercial vehicle from one facility to another
- Goods and services included in an approved hospital or specific program (unless they are enhanced goods and services)
- Hospitalization Benefits (Outpatients)
- Medically necessary goods and services provided to an outpatient, including goods used in a medical procedure but excluding goods given to a patient to use after discharge.
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Services
- Diagnostic interview and evaluation or consultation
- Insured oral surgery

This information is not intended to cover all instances. If you are unsure whether a medical service is insured, please contact our office. Refer to the Schedule of Medical Benefits, or the Allied Health Services Benefits Schedules for complete lists of services the AHCIP covers.

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/SOMB.html>.

When to use your card

Remember to show your personal health care card along with photo identification when you visit a doctor's office or hospital in Alberta.

- Your photo identification and current address will be used to prove your identity.

Up-to-date information is key to obtaining health services. Make sure your health care registration information is current.

Where to show your card

Show your personal health care card every time you request or get insured medical services from:

- hospitals
- doctors' offices
- laboratories
- physiotherapists
- pharmacies

If you do not show your card or are not eligible, you may be asked to pay for health services before receiving them. For more information about your card please visit <http://www.health.alberta.ca/AHCIP/carry-your-card.html>.

How to replace a lost card

Albertans can request a replacement card by telephone, in writing or in person. You must provide your:

- full name
- mailing address
- telephone number
- personal health care number
- date of birth

If you visit an authorized registry agent or telephone the AHCIP, a replacement card is generally received within 1–2 weeks. If you mail or fax Alberta Health with a request, a replacement card is generally received within 4–6 weeks. Contact information can be found at the end of this document. Do not request a replacement personal health care card via email. Due to the sensitive nature of the information required, do not send information or forms by email. Electronic submission is not available.

General Enquiries Contact information

In person:

Albertans may register for Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) coverage and update their information at participating registry agent office locations across the province, free of charge.
Telephone: 780-427-1432 (Edmonton) Monday–Friday 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed statutory holidays.
Toll-free in Alberta, dial 310-0000 then 780-427-1432.
Fax: 780-422-0102 (Edmonton)

By Mail:

Alberta Health
Attention: Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan
P.O. Box 1360, Station Main
Edmonton, AB T5J 2N3

Email*:

For general information or non-personal questions regarding the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan, email health.ahcipmail@gov.ab.ca. **Due to the sensitive nature of the information required, do not send information or forms by email. Electronic submission is not available.**

Telephone: 780-427-1432 (Edmonton) Monday–Friday 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed statutory holidays.
Toll-free in Alberta, dial 310-0000 then 780-427-1432.
Alberta Health Attention: Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan
P.O. Box 1360, Station Main
Edmonton, AB T5J 2N3

Websites

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-care-insurance-plan.html>
http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/subjects/cards/health_card.shtml

Provincial forms

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/AHCIP/forms.html>

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