



Information Regarding Medical Services Plan (MSP) Enrolment for Syrian Refugees

- The Government of Canada's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees will be implemented in five phases. It is intended to provide rapid protection for vulnerable Syrian refugees.
- To date, 2961 Syrian refugees have arrived in Canada. (source <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/index.asp>)
- The Government of Canada has established several categories of convention refugees, based on immigration status, location from which application is made, and location at which status is granted. These factors determine under which category a person/family will be approved.
- The province of British Columbia has confirmed Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage requirements for three categories: Government Assisted refugees, Private Sponsored refugees, and a new category known as Blended Visa Office Referred refugees.
- It is expected that Syrian refugees will be granted documents under one of these categories. Any persons who fall under one of these categories are eligible for immediate coverage in the MSP. They may also have their monthly MSP premiums waived for up to one year.
- Please note – enrolment and coverage in MSP is *not* automatic. Individuals must complete the MSP Application for Enrolment form and provide copies of their immigration documentation confirming their immigrant status. The application can be found at:
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-forms/msp/forms-for-bc-residents>.
- Once the application has been completed and signed, it must be sent along with copies of each individual's immigration documents to Health Insurance BC (HIBC) for processing.
- [Enrolment specialists at HIBC are available to answer any questions regarding the enrolment process. Individuals and/or their sponsors may call HIBC at 1800663-7100 and ask to be transferred to an enrolment specialist.](#)
- HIBC cannot confirm eligibility unless all of the proper documentation is received/approved and the beneficiary has gone through the enrolment process.
- If an individual applies for refugee status upon arrival in Canada, they are not eligible for immediate MSP coverage as they are considered Refugee Claimants. Refugee Claimants must serve the MSP wait period in BC (up to three months) before MSP coverage can be granted.
- The Interim Federal Health Program is a Government of Canada program that provides limited health care coverage to individuals. For further information about this program, please visit, please visit:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare/individuals/apply-who.asp>

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