

Key Events and Dates in the Manitoba Health Care System, 1990 to 2003

2003



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Primary Sources of Information

- Annual Reports of Manitoba Health Services Commission and Manitoba Health
- Physician's Newsletters issued by Manitoba Health
- Historical Newspaper Articles
- Manitoba Health records
- Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses
- Manitoba Government News Releases

This file is a “work in progress”, documenting those events and dates influencing the development and provision of health and related services for residents of Manitoba from 1990 to 2003.

The file is prefaced by a summary of the evolution of government health insurance programs, and organization structure from the introduction of hospital care in 1958, medical care in 1969, personal care home in 1973, and other health programs, to the amalgamation of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Department of Health in 1993.

The purpose and aim of the documentation is to provide researchers at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and elsewhere with key dates of events which might be related to:

- the provision of health care services
- changes which might affect the use of health care services.

MCHP plans to add additional information as it becomes available, and welcomes suggestions and comments, clarifications, additions, etc. Please send these to Carole Ouelette, Executive Assistant, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, 408 – 727 McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P5 (Carole_Ouelette@cpe.umanitoba.ca). While we hope this information will be useful, and it is as accurate as the sources reviewed can make it, we take no responsibility for any errors or misstatements in the report. We particularly want to thank Mr. Fred Toll who took responsibility for the preparation of this Key Events file.

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I. Summary of the Evolution of Government Health Insurance in Manitoba, 1958 – 1993

July 1, 1958 – The Manitoba Hospital Services Plan was implemented.

1962 – The Manitoba Hospital Commission was established to replace the Manitoba Hospital Services Plan.

April 1, 1969 – Comprehensive medical services became insured under the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Corporation which had been appointed in April 1967.

July 1, 1969 – Limited Chiropractic and optometric services became insured.

1970 – The Manitoba Health Services Commission was established through amalgamation of the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Corporation and the Manitoba Hospital Commission.

1971 – Certain prosthetic and orthotic devices became insured.

July 1, 1973 – The Personal Care Home Program started.

1974 – The Commission assumed the responsibility for Pharmacare claims for persons aged 65 and over.

1974 – The provincial Home Care Program started.

1975 – The Pharmacare Program was expanded to cover persons of all ages.

1975 – The Commission implemented the Ambulance Grant Program to municipalities and assumed responsibility for funding outreach programs in various community health centres.

September 1, 1977 – The Commission assumed responsibility for the administration of the Northern Patient Transportation Program.

April 1, 1979 – The Commission’s Prosthetic and Orthotic Program was expanded to include breast prostheses and surgical brassieres following mastectomy.

August 1, 1979 – The Hearing Aid Program for children under 18 years of age was introduced and administered by the Commission.

1979 – The Commission commenced funding Adult Day Care and Respite Care.

April 1, 1980 – The Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate Treatment and Rehabilitation Program for children under 18 years of age was implemented.

April 1, 1981 – A program to provide financial assistance toward the purchase and alteration of orthopedic shoes for children under 18 years of age was initiated.

April 1, 1981 – The purchase of telecommunication devices for the profoundly deaf became an insured service based on the Pharmacare model.

July 1, 1982 – The Insured Eyeglasses Program for residents 65 years of age and over was introduced, administered by the Commission.

January 1986 – Lifeflight, an air ambulance program began, province-wide operation.

April 1, 1988 – The Out-of-Province Transportation Subsidy Program was introduced.

April 1991 – Manitoba Health announced the integration of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Department of Health into one organization, to implement a strategic management plan towards a continuum of policy and programs under one accountability structure.

March 31, 1993 – The amalgamation and integration of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Department was finalized, and the planning for the reform of Manitoba’s health services system was well underway.

II. Key Events by Year Starting 1990 - 2003

1990

Pharmacare

As of January 1 the deductible was \$92.75 for families with at least one member 65+ years, and \$163.65 for families with at least one member under 65 years

MRI

November, St. Boniface Hospital started clinical MRI imaging services

Bone Marrow Transplant Program

November, first transplant at Health Sciences Centre

Dialysis Services

June, Dialysis Unit opened in Thompson General Hospital

Nursing Services

December 31, threatened nurse's strike less than 24 hours away

December 31, Administrators at Winnipeg's largest hospitals report that hundreds of beds have been closed, elective surgery cancelled and only emergency cases admitted

Home Care Services

September 29, three hundred nurses achieve first contract for one year

Medical Services

March 31, contract with doctors expired.

August 1, doctors break off contract talks.

August 8, MMA will ask doctors to withdraw services if contract dispute not settled by August 25

August 27, 4-year agreement reached – 3% raise the first year, followed by three years of binding arbitration

Hospital Services

July 1, the Brandon General Hospital closes 56 beds for renovations

November 16, the 56 beds are being reopened

December 28, the Health Sciences Centre is down to 676 patients instead of the usual 1,000 due to pending nurses' strike

1991

Pharmacare

As of January 1 the deductible was \$96.90 for families with at least one member 65+ years, and \$171.00 for families with all members under 65 years

Personal Care Home Services

March, 55 temporary personal home care beds opened at Deer Lodge Centre

Respite Care

March, there were 42 pch sponsors, 21 in Winnipeg and 21 in rural Manitoba

Manitoba Health Services Commission

April, Manitoba Health announced a major administrative restructuring – the integration of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Dept of Health

Hospital Services

January 1, 9500 nurses strike in 89 Manitoba health facilities

January 2, the Health Sciences Centre was down to 580 patients

January 10, Manitoba Health Services Commission reported that nearly half of hospital beds in Manitoba closed. About 500 of 1100 beds at the Health Sciences Centre closed

January 31, 80 locals accept contract; nine rejected. Dates they ratified:

Selkirk General Hospital – February 1

Betel Home, Selkirk – February 1

Flin Flon General Hospital – February 1

Johnson Memorial Hospital, Gimli – February 1

Lions Manor, Portage la Prairie – February 2

Beausejour Hospital/

East Gate Care Home – February 2

St. Amant Ward – February 7

Thompson General Hospital – February 9

Churchill Hospital – February 9

January 10, 150 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers at eight Winnipeg hospitals, and at the Dauphin and Winnipegosis hospitals go on strike

February 25, 48th day of strike of 150 members of operating engineers (who service hospital equipment including dialysis machines)

June, Neurosupportive Care Unit with 21 beds opened for patients 19-59 years old at the Deer Lodge Centre

June 22, the Health Sciences Centre will be closing 48 beds for the summer and 61 until March 31, 1992

1991 (cont'd)

Nursing Services

January 1, 9500 nurses go on strike in 89 Manitoba health facilities

January 31, 80 locals accept contract (9 reject)

February 1 – 9, 9 locals accept contract (see Hospital Services for details)

1992

Respite Care

At March 31 there were 42 pch sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg and 23 in rural Manitoba

Pharmacare

As of Jan 1 the deductible was \$106.60 for families with at least one member 65+ years and \$188.10 for families with all members under 65 years

Health Reform

May, Minister of Health introduced “Quality Health for Manitobans – The Action Plan” – contains nine strategies pursuant to the reform of the health services program

Medical Services

March 11, MMA and government have been unsuccessfully negotiating for almost one year – agreed to allow dispute to be heard by a board of arbitration

April 1, 0.95% increase to the fee schedule

Sept 6, government accepted arbitrator’s recommendation to award doctors a 1.6% increase in fee schedule retroactive to April/91

Hospital Services

June 8, the Health Sciences Centre to close 122 beds

June 10, the St. Boniface General Hospital plans to close 115 beds by the end of next March. The Deer Lodge Centre plans to close 40 beds and the Municipal Hospital 50 beds

July 9, the Misericordia General Hospital plans to close 21 psychiatric beds by year’s end

October 13, the Health Sciences Centre bed closures will coincide with Christmas

1993

Manitoba Health

On March 31 the amalgamation and integration of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Department of Health was finalized with the proclamation of the Health Services Insurance Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act

Medical Education

First year medical school enrollment reduced from 80 students to 70 commencing in the 1993/94 academic year

Hospital Services

\$4 million APM consultants study (Connie Curran) predicted savings of \$45 to \$65 million per year at Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface General Hospital

44 new beds opened as first phase of bed redirection from the tertiary hospitals (chronic care-21 beds; assessment and rehabilitation-23 beds) at the Deer Lodge Centre

January 15, new 113 bed psychiatric facility at Health Sciences Centre opened for patients

On March 31 all inpatient medical services for children up to the age of 16 was consolidated at the Children's Hospital, Health Sciences Centre

During the first three months the Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface Hospital closed 243 set-up beds

April 27, 50 emergency room physicians at five community hospitals in Winnipeg strike

November 4, City of Winnipeg's relationship with the Winnipeg Municipal Hospital ends – newly incorporated as the Riverview Health Centre

December 16, the Misericordia Hospital takes over all adult eye-care services for Manitoba, formerly performed at three Winnipeg hospitals – Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface, and Seven Oaks

Personal Care Home Services

During the first three months 124 panelled patients were transferred from HSC and the St. Boniface Hospital to personal care accommodation

Respite Care

At March 31 there were 43 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg, and 24 in rural Manitoba

Pharmacare

As of Jan 1 the deductible was \$117.25 for families with at least one member 65+ years, and \$206.90 for families with all members under 65 years

1993 (Cont'd)

Personal Health Identification Number (PHIN)

New Health Registration Certificate containing the PHIN number issued to every Manitoban. The PHIN must be used in the Drug Program Information Network (DPIN) to ensure eligibility and maintain an individual's drug use history

Personal Care Home Services

October 1, implementation of new personal care home residential charge structure – sliding scale based on income

Ophthalmological Services

Adult ophthalmologic services in Winnipeg consolidated at the Misericordia Hospital in late 1993

Dialysis Services

July 6, five-station kidney dialysis service opened in Portage la Prairie Hospital

Eye Examinations

January 1, residents entitled to one routine complete eye examination by an optometrist or medical practitioner within a fixed 24-month period.

In addition, residents are entitled to receive additional insured complete eye examinations within the 24-month period when there is an indication or suspicion of a condition that medically requires examination for certain diagnoses listed in the International Classification of Disease Manual; there are exceptions.

1994

Respite Care

At March 31 there were 42 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg and 23 in rural Manitoba

Pharmacare

As of Jan 1 the deductible was \$129.00 for families with at least one member 65+ years and \$227.60 for families with all members under 65 years

Drug Program Information Network (DPIN)

July 18, start of a fully integrated drug, province-wide, information network

The DPIN system is a computer network connecting pharmacies in Manitoba to a central database. It directly reimburses pharmacies for eligible drug costs. Pharmacies transmit information regarding prescriptions dispensed to the network. DPIN processes the claims and provides pharmacies with real time adjudication of the payment

Health Information Network

December 12, an announcement by Minister of Health for the development of a new computer system (network) over a five-year period, designed to provide health care workers with easier and faster access to vital patient information. Value of contract - \$100 million. Vendor - SmartHealth

Hospital Services

National Management Information System (MIS) Guidelines implemented in 1994/95. It includes a standard chart of financial and statistical accounts. Completion expected in 1996/97

March 10, the first lung transplant in Manitoba is performed at the Health Sciences Centre

May 5, the Health Minister permits the Concordia, Misericordia and Grace hospitals to use their C.T. scanners. Previously only the St. Boniface and Victoria hospitals and the Health Sciences Centre were authorized to do C.T. scans.

July 20, the Misericordia Hospital will close its maternity ward and open a provincial breast screening centre

Medical Services

February 16, the current level of 2000 doctors to be frozen immediately as part of ratification of the contract reached between the government and MMA

February 28, the contract calls for a 4% reduction in total fees paid to doctors over the next two years. The province accepted the suggestion the doctors, i.e. MMA, be granted more control over how the money is spent

1994 (Cont'd)

Five-year agreement between Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Medical Association signed March 8, 1994 covering period April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1998. Agreement “provides the Minister of Health, in his absolute discretion, to determine the available amount (i.e. the total fee-for-service payments paid in respect to insured medical services) paid to physicians for the final three years”

Physician Resource Committee established to develop a Physician Resource Plan and to manage the supply of physicians. As an interim measure the issuance of all fee-for-service billing numbers on or after Jan 1 has been deemed provisional

Influenza Immunization

September, free immunization to:

- adults and children with specified chronic conditions
- residents of personal care homes and other chronic care facilities
- people 65 years of age and over
- certain health care workers

1995

Respite Care

On March 31, there were 43 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg and 24 in rural Manitoba

Pharmacare

As of Jan 1, the deductible was \$130.95 for families where at least one member was 65+ years and \$231.05 with all members under 65 years.

Nursing Education

A new program to train Licensed Practical Nurses commenced in September

June 24, the Brandon School of Nursing graduated its last class of diploma nurses. In collaboration with the University of Manitoba it will be offering a four-year university degree program

Influenza Immunization

September, 43% of well-elderly and personal care home residents get flu shots. About 10% more people in target groups (elderly, people under 65 with chronic lung, heart and kidney diseases and all health workers) are getting the shots each year

Hospital Services

January 20, the St. Boniface General Hospital opens 20 beds until March 31 to alleviate overcrowding

February 15, the Health Sciences Centre announces that in mid-December, 1994, it had suspended open heart surgery for children. Between February and December 1994, out of 80 pediatric cases, mortality averaged 15%, but for infants, mortality was 30% for 32 babies

March, the Manitoba Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest, headed by Provincial Court Judge Murray Sinclair, was initiated

July 28, 45 emergency and intensive care physicians are poised to walk off their jobs at the Misericordia, Victoria, Concordia and Seven Oaks hospitals

September 5, the emergency and intensive care physicians strike is on

December 13, the Minister of Health announces the night-time reopening of the Grace, Seven Oaks and Victoria hospitals emergency departments. The Misericordia emergency department will stay closed

Breast Screening

Manitoba Breast Screening program launched in Winnipeg - includes a physical breast examination and mammography every two years for all eligible Manitoba women 50 to 69 years of age. Other sites to be opened will be in Brandon and Thompson

1996

Medical Services

A Comprehensive Physician Resource Plan was approved in January and submitted to the Manitoba Medical Services Council and the Minister of Health. It made 18 recommendations relating to economic, education and environmental measures to address the geographic distribution of physicians. All provisional physician billing numbers were converted to valid and active billing numbers as of October

Pharmacare

As of Jan 1, the deductible was \$134.40 for families where at least one member was 65+ years and \$237.10 with all members under 65 years

April 1, Pharmacare coverage will be based on both income and the amount paid for eligible prescription drugs. To register for coverage, residents must apply each benefit year. The Pharmacare benefit year is now, April 1st to March 31st

During the benefit year, any eligible drug purchases made prior to applying for Pharmacare coverage will be credited towards the applicant's deductible. Once the deductible has been reached, the resident will receive 100% coverage

Deductibles are now 3% of a family adjusted income of more than \$15,000 or 2% if the adjusted family income is \$15,000 or less

July, Pharmacare will no longer pay the difference between the Drug Interchangeability Formulary listed maximum price allowed for a "do not substitute prescriptions and the cost of the lowest price listed in the interchangeability category." The difference in price will be the patient's responsibility

Community Nurse Resource Centres

February, Youville Centre in St. Vital established the First Nurse Resource Centre in Manitoba. It provides nurse-managed primary health services focussing on health promotion, education, disease prevention and clinical care

Hospital Services

Cardiac service became a single program delivered at two sites – the Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface General Hospital

March 10, strike at Thompson Hospital now six weeks old; hospital down to 25 beds

March 11, strike at Thompson Hospital over

1996 (Cont'd)

Home Care Services

April 16, 3000 home care workers go on strike.

During the Home Care Attendants strike from April 16 to May 16 a number of admissions of Special Respite Patients to hospitals and personal care homes occurred

May 16, agreement reached – allows government to set up a one-year trial project of private home care in Winnipeg, to be responsible for a maximum of 20% of current service in the city

Personal Care Home Services

August 1, new resident rate structure put into place to ensure equitable rates for all long term care services – minimum rate reduced to \$24.60 per day; maximum increased to \$57.00

August 16 – Nine-week old nursing home strike appeared to be over – Manitoba Health Organizations accepted mediator's recommendation

Nursing Services

November 4, Manitoba Nurses' Union agrees to a three-year contract that includes a 2% salary rollback

Hospital Health Care Support Workers

March 24, 1500 health care support workers at St. Boniface General Hospital reached agreement ending strike threat

April 11, hospitals in Winnipeg will open up to 300 beds in Winnipeg to ease the impact of a potential strike next week of 3000 home care workers.

April 17, hospitals rehiring laid-off staff to take care of people affected by home care workers strike. St. Boniface hospital opened 22 beds; Grace hospital opened two wards for 34 people; Victoria hospital opened 8 beds

October 23, 7000 health care support workers to vote during the next two weeks to ratify the CUPE agreement

Date? Canadian Union of Public Employees agree to a three-year contract that includes a 2% salary rollback

Neil John MacLean Health Sciences Library

Opened June 1, 1996

Supportive Housing

December 16, the first supportive housing facility, designed to extend community care for persons otherwise requiring care in a personal care home, was opened in the Winnipeg Lions Manor at 320 Sherbrook Street

1996 (Cont'd)

Eye Examinations

April 2, provincial government announced in its budget that it was ending free eye examinations for people 19 – 64 years of age effective April 1st

Breast Screening

September 1, screening mammography for asymptomatic women aged 50 to 69 years will no longer be performed in private diagnostic facilities

Influenza Immunization

September, free vaccine available to:

- Adults and children with a specified list of chronic conditions
- Residents of personal care homes and other long-term care facilities
- People 65 years of age and over
- People infected with HIV
- Pregnant women who fall into specified risk groups
- Certain health care workers

1997

Regional Health Authorities

April 1, 10 rural and northern regional health authorities assumed their mandate - South Eastman, Central, South Westman, Marquette, Interlake, North Eastman, Parkland, Burntwood, Nor-Man, and Churchill

Community Nurse Resource Centres

August, Thompson CNRC opened

Medical Services

26 South African physicians recruited and placed in rural communities to alleviate a significant shortage

June, a one-year Rural Emergency Medical Services Agreement implemented

Nursing Education

Registered nurse education program transferred to the University of Manitoba

60 students in Brandon and 30 in Winnipeg are enrolled in an educational program for Licensed Practical Nurses

June 27, last school of nursing class graduate at Misericordia Hospital

Personal Care Home Services

The daily residential charge minimum rate was increased to \$24.80 and the maximum to \$57.90 as of August 1

Home Care Services

During 1997/98 rural Regional Health Authorities assumed responsibility for the delivery of Home Care services

April 1, rural and northern Regional Health Authorities took over responsibility for the delivery of Support Services to Seniors and Senior Centres programs

May 28, the government signs a one-year contract with Olsten Health Services to provide direct home care services in two quadrants in Winnipeg

December 5, the government cancels the contract that will end in four months

The Personal Health Information Act

December 11, the Act came into force. It provides residents with the right of access to their own personal health information and protects the confidentiality and privacy of all personal health information in the custody of “trustees”, including physicians

1997 (Cont'd)

C.T. Scanner Services

Insured services available in the following hospitals:

Brandon General Hospital
Health Sciences Centre

Victoria General Hospital
St. Boniface General Hospital

Hospital Services

March 14, the new Riverview Health Centre opened with 150 hospital beds and 225 personal care home beds, replacing the King George and King Edward buildings

March 31, Misericordia Hospital closes its obstetrical unit

April 25, the St. Boniface General Hospital takes emergency measures to cut the number of patients from 500 to 250 by early next week because of a flood threat. All elective surgery cancelled

April 28, the St. Boniface General Hospital sends critically ill patients to the Health Sciences Centre

May 10, the St. Boniface General Hospital prepares for the return of their patients. As many as 350 patients had been transferred over a two-week period. Although the Misericordia and Riverview hospitals were also on alert, only the St. Boniface General Hospital moved patients out

June 11, Grace Hospital's obstetrical unit to close August 31

August 31, decision to close unit postponed for two months to October 31

Sept. 15, the Deer Lodge Centre is closing 55 temporary beds used for patients awaiting personal care home placement

Dialysis Services

October 29, Dialysis Services are available at nine locations in Manitoba, two in Winnipeg, Morden, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas, Thompson, Portage la Prairie and Pine Falls

Breast Screening

December 1, Breast screening services opened in Thompson, the third site in Manitoba, including Brandon and Winnipeg

Cadham Laboratory

December 5, plaque unveiled commemorating a century of service of the Cadham Provincial Laboratory

1998

Regional Health Authorities

April 1, the Winnipeg Hospital Authority and the Winnipeg Community and Long Term Care Authority assumed their mandate. Also the Brandon Regional Health Authority assumed its mandate

Mental Health Services

Brandon Mental Health Centre closed on March 31

Medical Services

May 26, 30 obstetricians in Winnipeg and Brandon stopped accepting new patients to protest new fees announced by the government almost two weeks ago – the new fees are to be effective July 1

June 3, Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Medical Association signed an Interest Interim Arbitration Agreement

A Memorandum Agreement was signed with the Manitoba Medical Association for new services and fee increases for Family Practitioners effective July 1, 1998 to February 1, 2002

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the Manitoba Medical Association for retroactive payment to specialists for the 15-month period from April 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999

Reached agreement with the Manitoba Medical Association on fees for several new services performed by physicians for the first time in Manitoba

Finalized an agreement with the MMA's Section of Anaesthesia for a new fee schedule based on relative value principles

Finalized a new three-year memorandum of agreement on private laboratory services

Between April 1, 1998 and March 31, 1999, 103 physicians were recruited to fill rural vacancies

June 4, province's 2000 doctors have been without a contract since April 1

MMA and government reached an agreement to send their contract dispute to binding arbitration and put an immediate end to service withdrawals throughout the province. Full service resumed today (June 4)

1998 (Cont'd)

November 9, arbitration hearings began in late October, scheduled to last a total of 60 days and wrap up in November 1999

Home Care Services

April 1, Winnipeg Community and Long Term Care Authority assumed responsibility for Home Care Services

April 1, the Winnipeg and Brandon Regional Health Authorities assumed responsibility for the delivery of Support Services to Seniors and Senior Centres programs

April 8, the Olsten contract has been extended up to six months

Personal Care Home Services

The daily residential charges minimum rate was increased to \$25.00, and the maximum to \$58.40, as of August 1

Nursing Services

March 17, the Red River Community College is shutting down its 2-year diploma nursing program

Community Health Centre

There are 12 in Winnipeg

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

May 4, the Act came into force. It governs access to information held by public bodies

Aboriginal Health

The Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre in Winnipeg is a three-year project – 1989/90 to 2000/01 – situated in the Aboriginal Centre – provides primary health services, education and outreach, and community development

Supportive Housing

June 1, the second facility was opened at the Winnipeg Arlington Haus, at 880 Arlington Street

Mental Health Services

November 9, a new 10-bed facility opened in Brandon to treat child and adolescent mental health disorders

MRI Services

September, Health Sciences Centre opened its MRI unit

1999

Medical Services

The government reached agreement with the MMA on the fee-for-service allocation of the Interim Arbitration Award of August 3

- Reached agreement with the MMA on several new tariffs and corresponding fees for services provided by physicians, during 99/00
- Finalized a new three-year Memorandum of Agreement regarding a new fee schedule for Ultrasound and MRI services during 99/00
- Negotiated several new alternate funding contracts, during 99/00
- Developed a comprehensive database on all contracts, during 99/00

Retroactive increases awarded by the Board of Arbitration are as follows:

1. April 1, 1998 - \$5 million
January 1, 1999 - \$3.5 million
2. Approximately 50% to family practice physicians
3. Tariffs increased on a retroactive basis - #8540, #8500, #8519, #4821, #4822, #4823
4. 50% to the specialty blocs of practice
5. No retroactive increases to emergency medicine, anesthesia, or neuro-surgery specialists
6. No increases to private laboratories through this award

Telemedicine Services

November 1, Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Medical Association signed a Memorandum of Agreement to amend the Manitoba Physicians Manual to include remuneration for Telemedicine Services as of this date.

Telemedicine Services are medical services provided to a patient at an approved site, through the recording of visual images and transmission of those images to a receiving physician. Telemedicine Services shall only be provided by specialists at the following sites: Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface Hospital, Thompson General Hospital, The Pas General Hospital, Bethel Hospital, Brandon General Hospital and Dauphin General Hospital.

The following codes have been added for specialists at the receiving sites to claim the equivalent of their existing consultation rates - #4880, #8481, and # 8478. Tariff code #8482 is for physicians who assist patients at the sending sites, and #8479 is for individual psychotherapy.

Regional Health Authorities

December 1, the Winnipeg Hospital Authority and the Winnipeg Community and Long Term Care Authority were merged to become the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

1999 (cont'd)

Community Nurse Resource Centres

November, Flin Flon and The Pas CHRC opened; a fifth facility is located in Ethelbert and a sixth in Pine River

Primary Health Care Centres

June, East Borderland PHC Centre in Sprague opened

July, bilingual facility opened in St. Boniface. The Kin Place Centre in Oakbank also opened

Health Care Support Workers

June 9, CUPE and the regional health authorities labor relations secretariat reached a 3-year agreement. The contract affects 8,500 health care support workers in rural hospitals and four Winnipeg hospitals and the Riverview Health Centre

Hospital Services

June 15, the Misericordia Hospital breast cancer clinic closed; a new facility will be opened in September

June 22, the Brandon General Hospital closed 11 of 60 surgical beds until September 7

November 24, the Minister of Health announced that 138 extra beds in Winnipeg to be staffed to end hallway medicine, 100 by December 1; hospitals say only as needed.

- St. Boniface, 15 beds, but six slated for the psychiatric ward
- Concordia, 2 conference rooms set aside for eight beds
- Seven Oaks, 10 beds
- Deer Lodge Centre, 8 beds
- Brandon, 10 beds

December 8, 24 patients in hallways; administration problems blamed for delay in opening more beds

December 9, the Minister of Health ordered hospitals to open more beds. Another 31 beds to be opened by the end of the day, the Minister said

Supportive Housing

May, third facility at 857 Wilkes

September, fourth facility, Heritage House at 12 Portage Place

November, fifth facility, Lions Manor at 330 Maryland Street

1999 (cont'd)

Palliative Care Services

April 13, government announces \$1.2 million funding for home and institutional services in Brandon, rural and southern regional health authorities, and in Winnipeg

Nursing Services

May 7, Assiniboine Community College's LPN educational program to accept 100 additional students this year, more than doubling enrolment

MRI Services

May 12, St. Boniface General Hospital's second MRI unit will open in July

Dialysis Services

June 22, Health Sciences Centre opened nine new dialysis stations, bringing its total to 24

Dialysis treatments are provided at 12 locations in Manitoba including two at Health Sciences Centre, one at the St. Boniface General Hospital in Winnipeg and at the Brandon General Hospital, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Morden, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Thompson and Ashern

C.T. Scanner Services

August 6, a new C.T. scanner became fully operational at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre

Clinical Assistants

December, the Medical Act amended to allow for the registration of Clinical Assistants. A Clinical Assistant is a salaried, midlevel health care provider who may perform certain medical functions under the supervision of a licensed medical practitioner in accordance with a specified job description

A Clinical Assistant must be a graduate of an approved education program (currently offered only in the U.S.) or satisfactorily complete an assessment of his or her experience and competence

Currently (summer 2000) the first Clinical Assistants are working in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of the Health Sciences Centre

1999 (cont'd)

Mental Health Services

October 29, the new Mental Health Act was proclaimed; very similar to the previous legislation. The more significant changes include:

1. A presumption of competence for persons in psychiatric facilities at 16 years of age
2. An expansion of the confidentiality and disclosure provisions
3. An expansion of the provisions regarding committership to manage property and/or personal care
4. A requirement to provide notice regarding the impending issuance of an Order of Committeeships
5. An expansion of the provisions regarding the Leave Certificate

2000

Medical Services

During 2000/2001, the government reached an agreement with the MMA on new tariffs and benefit rates for medical services

During 2000/2001, implemented fee increases for the Optometry Program

During 2000/2001, negotiated several new Alternate Funding contracts

Nursing Education

September, 24-month diploma nursing program accepted 90 students into the new program at Red River College

Enrollment in first year at the University of Manitoba and Brandon increased

Total enrollment of students in Registered Nursing programs – 1257

Manitoba Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest

November 27, release of report on inquest into 12 deaths at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre in 1994

Hospital Services

February 6, parts of the Dauphin General Hospital closed due to an outbreak of mould

Personal Care Home Services

February 6, parts of the Dauphin Personal Care Home closed due to an outbreak of mould

Midwifery

June 12, the government approved almost \$2 million to support 26 midwifery positions -16 allocated to the WRHA and 10 to rural and northern health authorities
The model Medical Staff By-Law drafted by Manitoba Health has been revised to include midwives. This will facilitate the granting of admitting and discharge privileges to midwives. This issue is being dealt with by Regional Health Authorities, as they are planning for the implementation of midwifery services

Dialysis Services

August 16, two-station dialysis unit opened at Norway House Indian Hospital. The total sites for Manitoba is now 12 including Selkirk

Health Information Network

Spring, the government cancelled the contract with SmartHealth – settlement of \$30 million. One accomplishment was the linking of patients' prescription drug histories to hospital emergency rooms

2000 (Cont'd)

Influenza Immunization

People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk were added to the list of persons recommended to receive influenza vaccine at no cost. Examples include hospital, personal care home and home care employees

2001

Health Information Management

February, Decision Support Services, Epidemiology, and part of Community Health Assessment consolidated to form the Health Information Management Branch

Medical Services

April 2, the province announced plans to purchase the Pan Am Sports Medicine Centre – the deal was finalized in September. Out-patient surgeries will increase from 1500 to 3000 annually

Dialysis

Two additional dialysis stations opened at the Portage General Hospital

Medical Education

April, implementation of the Medical Licensing Program for International Medical Graduates (MLPIMG) announced. Each year 10 IMG's in Manitoba will be assessed for eligibility for conditional registration. Successful applicants will practice in rural areas of the Province

May, the Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program announced, providing conditional grants to eligible medical students, residents, and newly graduated residents in return for a service commitment to Manitoba

September, 15 new residency positions added – nine to train family physicians specifically for rural practice and six to train additional specialists. An additional five residency positions to be added to provide rural physicians with advanced skills training

September, 15 additional students to enter first year medicine, restoring enrolment to 85 first-year positions from approximately 72 – 75 during 1991 to 2000

Primary Health Care Centres

October 5, the Beausejour Primary Health Care Centre officially opened

Manitoba Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest

May 24, release of the Thomas Implementation Report on the recommendations in the Inquest report

2001 (Cont'd)

Hospital Services

March 31, the St. Boniface General Hospital canceling hip and knee surgeries due to budget restraints. The number of procedures in the coming year will be cut from 600 to 480

July 3, a shortage of nurses forces the Dauphin General Hospital to close one quarter of their beds by month's end

Nursing Education

September, approximately 500 students admitted to BN program; 100 admitted to the accelerated nursing program; 23 students admitted to a new three-year diploma program; 45 students admitted to the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing Program, plus 117 students admitted to a program where students study by distance to the school site

350 students graduated from the BN program, up from 190 a year ago, 90 two years ago, and 60 three years ago

Telehealth

November, the first site opened in Norway House

Community Health Access Centres in Winnipeg

April 12, the government announces that the North West Co-op Community Health Centre has been designated as the Health Access Centre for Inkster – will provide medical care, social services and a wide variety of health related programs

WRHA identifies the establishment of Access Centres to improve access to primary health services in each of the 12 community areas in Winnipeg. In 2001/02 planning is focussing on the River East Community

C.T. Scanner Services

October 24, a new C.T. scanner service opened at the Thompson General Hospital

Cervical Cancer Screening

Implementation of the Cervical Cancer Screening Program, including a Cervical Cancer Registry; an education program for at-risk women; an education program for health care providers

Healthy Baby Program

July, start of Healthy Baby, a two-part program of financial benefits and community supports for pregnant women

2001 (Cont'd)

Blood Recipient Notification Project

May 14, letters sent to approximately 570,000 residents who received blood or blood products between 1979 and March 1992 that may have been exposed to hepatitis C virus through contact with the blood supply, advising them to seek testing

Over 16,000 Manitobans responded to the letters. The prevalence rate of new hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections as a result of the notification remained at less than 1%

The project concluded in March 2002

2002

Manitoba Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest

June 12, release of the Year One Public Report on progress of the Thomas Implementation Report

Regional Health Authorities

July 1, Marquette and South Westman Regional Health Authorities' amalgamated to form the new Regional Health Authorities of Assiniboine

Nursing Services

April 1, Manitoba Nurses' Union and the provincial government agree to a 3-year contract

Telehealth

February 26, the new Telehealth network links Winnipeg to two rural sites – Thompson, Flin Flon

May 5, the Brandon Regional Health Centre site added

Services available in 21 Manitoba communities, including six units in three health facilities in Winnipeg – Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface General Hospital and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. The majority of sites opened this year in the following communities – Steinbach, Selkirk, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie, Boundary Trail, Killarney, Brandon, Ashern, Russell, Dauphin, Swan River, Berens River, Norway House, The Pas, Flin Flon, Thompson, Gillam, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake and Churchill

Hospital Services

September 9, Winnipeg hospitals cancel some elective surgeries in case health care workers strike

September 19, 5,500 CUPE health care support workers at 13 Winnipeg hospitals, personal care homes and support facilities (except the Middlechurch P.C.H.) accept the government's new offer

September 23, 1,500 UFCWU health care support workers at the St. Boniface General Hospital strike. Fifty beds closed and elective surgery cancelled

September 27, health care support workers at St. Boniface General Hospital agree to mediation, end strike and return to work

C.T. Scanner Services

April 24, C.T. scanner project unveiled at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg

2002 (Cont'd)

Midwifery

September 19, two midwifery positions funded in the Brandon Regional Health Authority, one in the Central Regional Health Authority, and one in the Nor-Man Regional Health Authority

South Eastman, Burntwood and Central each have two positions

Dialysis Services

January 7, 20 station dialysis clinics opened at the Seven Oaks General Hospital, the 13th site in Manitoba

Pharmacare

December 9, the Palliative Care Drug Access Program (PCDAP) became effective. The program provides eligible prescription drugs at no charge to palliative patients at the end stages of life who elect to spend their final days at home or in another residence

2003

Medical Services

January 1, an amount for fee differential will be paid on medical services based on the location that the service was provided rather than the prior criteria in the Physician's Manual. Under the prior criteria "When a physician resides in a location set out in Column II and provides the majority of medical services in another location set out in that Column, the physician shall be entitled to the lower of the differential rates applicable to the two locations"

Column I **Differential Rate**

10%
5%
2.5%
0%
0%

Column II **Location of Services** **Provided/Location of Residence**

Northern Manitoba
Rural Manitoba
Brandon
Winnipeg
Outside of Manitoba

III. LISTING OF TOPIC AREAS

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Aboriginal Health

1998

The Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre in Winnipeg is a three-year project – 1989/90 to 2000/01 – situated in the Aboriginal Centre – provides primary health services, education and outreach, and community development

Blood Recipient Notification Project

May 14, letters sent to approximately 570,000 residents who received blood or blood products between 1979 and March 1992 that may have been exposed to hepatitis C virus through contact with the blood supply, advising them to seek testing

Over 16,000 Manitobans responded to the letters. The prevalence rate of new hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections as a result of the notification remained at less than 1%

The project concluded in March 2002

Bone Marrow Transplant Program

1990

November, first transplant at Health Sciences Centre

Breast Screening

1995

Manitoba Breast Screening program launched in Winnipeg - includes a physical breast examination and mammography every two years for all eligible Manitoba women 50 to 69 years of age. Other sites to be opened will be in Brandon and Thompson

1996

September 1, screening mammography for asymptomatic women aged 50 to 69 years will no longer be performed in private diagnostic facilities

1997

December 1, Breast screening services opened in Thompson, the third site in Manitoba, including Brandon and Winnipeg

C.T. Scanner Services

1997

Insured services available in the following hospitals:

Brandon General Hospital
Health Sciences Centre
St. Boniface General Hospital
Victoria General Hospital

1999

August 6, a new C.T. scanner became fully operational at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre

2001

October 24, a new C.T. scanner service opened at the Thompson General Hospital

2002

April 24, C.T. scanner project unveiled at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg

Cadham Laboratory

1997

December 5, plaque unveiled commemorating a century of service of the Cadham Provincial Laboratory

Cervical Cancer Screening

Implementation of the Cervical Cancer Screening Program, including a Cervical Cancer Registry; an education program for at-risk women; an education program for health care providers

Clinical Assistants

1999

December, the Medical Act amended to allow for the registration of Clinical Assistants. A Clinical Assistant is a salaried, midlevel health care provider who may perform certain medical functions under the supervision of a licensed medical practitioner in accordance with a specified job description.

A Clinical Assistant must be a graduate of an approved education program (currently offered only in the U.S.) or satisfactorily complete an assessment of his or her experience and competence.

Currently (summer 2000) the first Clinical Assistants are working in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of the Health Sciences Centre.

Community Health Access Centres in Winnipeg

2001

April 12, the government announces that the North West Co-op Community Health Centre has been designated as the Health Access Centre for Inkster – will provide medical care, social services and a wide variety of health related programs

WRHA identifies the establishment of Access Centres to improve access to primary health services in each of the 12 community areas in Winnipeg. In 2001/02 planning is focussing on the River East Community

Community Health Centres

1998

There are 12 in Winnipeg

Community Nurse Resource Centres

1996

February, Youville Centre in St. Vital established the First Nurse Resource Centre in Manitoba. It provides nurse-managed primary health services focussing on health promotion, education, disease prevention and clinical care

1997

August, Thompson CNRC opened

1999

November, Flin Flon and The Pas CHRC opened; a fifth facility is located in Ethelbert and a sixth in Pine River

Dialysis Services

1990

June, Dialysis Unit opened in Thompson General Hospital

1993

July 6, five-station kidney dialysis service opened in Portage la Prairie Hospital

1997

October 29, Dialysis Services are available at nine locations in Manitoba, two in Winnipeg, Morden, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas, Thompson, Portage la Prairie and Pine Falls

1999

June 22, Health Sciences Centre opened nine new dialysis stations, bringing its total to 24

Dialysis treatments are provided at 12 locations in Manitoba including two at Health Sciences Centre, one at the St. Boniface General Hospital in Winnipeg and at the Brandon General Hospital, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Morden, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Thompson and Ashern

2000

August 16, two-station dialysis unit opened at Norway House Indian Hospital. The total sites for Manitoba is now 12 including Selkirk

2001

Two additional dialysis stations opened at the Portage General Hospital

2002

January 7, 20 station dialysis clinics opened at the Seven Oaks General Hospital, the 13th site in Manitoba

Drug Program Information Network (DPIN)

1994

July 18, start of a fully integrated drug, province-wide, information network

The DPIN system is a computer network connecting pharmacies in Manitoba to a central database. It directly reimburses pharmacies for eligible drug costs. Pharmacies transmit information regarding prescriptions dispensed to the network. DPIN processes the claims and provides pharmacies with real time adjudication of the payment

Eye Examinations

1993

January 1, residents entitled to one routine complete eye examination by an optometrist or medical practitioner with a fixed 24-month period.

In addition, residents are entitled to receive additional insured complete eye examinations within the 24-month period when there is an indication or suspicion of a condition that medically required examination for certain diagnoses listed in the International Classification of Disease Manual; there are exceptions.

1996

April 2, provincial government announced in its budget that it was ending free eye examinations for people 19 – 64 years of age

Health Care Support Workers

1999

June 9, CUPE and the regional health authorities labor relations secretariat reached a 3-year agreement. The contract affects 8,500 health care support workers in rural hospitals and four Winnipeg hospitals and the Riverview Health Centre

Health Information Management

2001

February, Decision Support Services Epidemiology, and part of Community Health Assessment consolidated to form the Health Information Management Branch

Health Information Network

1994

December 12, an announcement by Minister of Health for the development of a new computer system (network) over a five-year period, designed to provide health care workers with easier and faster access to vital patient information. Value of contract - \$100 million. Vendor - SmartHealth

Health Reform

1992

May, Minister of Health introduced “Quality Health for Manitobans – The Action Plan” – contains nine strategies pursuant to the reform of the health services program

Healthy Baby Program

2001

July, start of Healthy Baby, a two-part program of financial benefits and community supports for pregnant women

Home Care Services

1990

September 29, three hundred nurses achieve first contract for one year

1996

April 16, 3000 home care workers go on strike.

May 16, agreement reached – allows government to set up a one-year trial project of private home care in Winnipeg, to be responsible for a maximum of 20% of current service in the city

1997

During 1997/98 rural Regional Health Authorities assumed responsibility for the delivery of Home Care services

April 1, rural and northern Regional Health Authorities took over responsibility for the delivery of Support Services to Seniors and Senior Centres programs

May 28, the government signs a one-year contract with Olsten Health Services to provide direct home care services in two quadrants in Winnipeg

December 5, the government cancels the contract which will end in four months

1998

April 1, Winnipeg Community and Long Term Care Authority assumed responsibility for Home Care Services

April 1, the Winnipeg and Brandon Authorities assumed responsibility for the delivery of Support Services to Seniors and Senior Centres programs

April 8, the Olsten contract has been extended up to six months

Hospital Health Care Support Workers

1996

March 24, 1500 health care support workers at St. Boniface General Hospital reached agreement ending strike threat

April 11, hospitals in Winnipeg will open up to 300 beds in Winnipeg to ease the impact of a potential strike next week of 3000 home care workers.

April 17, hospitals rehiring laid-off staff to take care of people affected by home care workers strike. St. Boniface hospital opened 22 beds; Grace hospital opened two wards for 34 people; Victoria hospital opened 8 beds

October 23, 7000 health care support workers to vote during the next two weeks to ratify the CUPE agreement

Date? Canadian Union of Public Employees agree to a three-year contract that includes a 2% salary rollback

Hospital Services

1990

July 1, the Brandon General Hospital closes 56 beds for renovations

November 16, the 56 beds are being reopened

December 28, the Health Sciences Centre was down to 676 patients instead of the usual 1,000 due to pending nurses' strike

1991

January 1, 9500 nurses strike in 89 Manitoba health facilities

January 2, the Health Sciences Centre is down to 580 patients

January 10, Manitoba Health Services Commission reported that nearly half of hospital beds in Manitoba closed.

January 10, 150 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers at eight Winnipeg hospitals, and at the Dauphin and Winnipegosis hospitals go on strike.

January 31, 80 locals vote to accept contract; nine rejected. Dates they ratified:

Selkirk General Hospital – February 1

Betel Home, Selkirk – February 1

Flin Flon General Hospital – February 1

Johnson Memorial Hospital, Gimli – February 1

Lions Manor, Portage la Prairie – February 2

Beausejour Hospital/

East Gate Care Home – February 2

St. Amant Ward – February 7

Thompson General Hospital – February 9

Churchill Hospital – February 9

February 25, 48th day of strike of 150 members of operating engineers (who service hospital equipment including dialysis machines)

June, Neurosupportive Care Unit with 21 beds opened for patients 19-59 years old at the Deer Lodge Centre

June 22, the Health Sciences Centre will be closing 48 beds for the summer and 61 until March 31, 1992

Hospital Services cont'd

1992

June 8, the Health Sciences Centre to close 122 beds

June 10, the St. Boniface General Hospital plans to close 115 beds by the end of next March. The Deer Lodge Centre plans to close 40 beds and the Municipal Hospital 50 beds

July 9, the Misericordia General Hospital plans to close 21 psychiatric beds by year's end

October 13, the Health Sciences Centre bed closures will coincide with Christmas

1993

\$4 million APM consultants study (Connie Curran) predicted savings of \$45 to \$65 million per year at Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface General Hospital

44 new beds opened as first phase of bed redirection from the tertiary hospitals (chronic care-21 beds; assessment and rehabilitation-23 beds) at the Deer Lodge Centre

January 15, new 113 bed psychiatric facility at Health Sciences Centre opened for patients

On March 31 all inpatient medical services for children up to the age of 16 was consolidated at the Children's Hospital, Health Sciences Centre

During the first three months the Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface Hospital closed 243 set-up beds

April 27, 50 emergency room physicians at five community hospitals in Winnipeg strike

November 4, City of Winnipeg's relationship with the Winnipeg Municipal Hospital ends – newly incorporated as the Riverview Health Centre

December 16, the Misericordia Hospital takes over all adult eye-care services for Manitoba, formerly performed at three Winnipeg hospitals – Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface, and Seven Oaks

Hospital Services cont'd

1994

National Management Information System (MIS) Guidelines implemented in 1994/95. It includes a standard chart of financial and statistical accounts. Completion expected in 1996/97

March 10, the first lung transplant in Manitoba is performed at the Health Sciences Centre

May 5, the Health Minister permits the Concordia, Misericordia and Grace hospitals to use their C.T. scanners. Previously only St. Boniface and Victoria hospitals and the Health Sciences Centre were authorized to do C.T. scans.

July 20, the Misericordia Hospital will close its maternity ward and open a provincial breast screening centre

1995

January 20, the St. Boniface General Hospital opens 20 beds until March 31 to alleviate overcrowding

February 15, the Health Sciences Centre announces that in mid-December, 1994, it had suspended open heart surgery for children. Between February and December 1994, out of 80 pediatric cases, mortality averaged 15%, but for infants, mortality was 30% for 32 babies

March, the Manitoba Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest, headed by Provincial Court Judge Murray Sinclair, was initiated

June 24, the Brandon School of Nursing graduated its last class of diploma nurses. In collaboration with the University of Manitoba it will be offering a four-year university degree program

July 28, 45 emergency and intensive care physicians are poised to walk off their jobs at the Misericordia, Victoria, Concordia and Seven Oaks hospitals

September 5, the emergency and intensive care physicians strike is on

December 13, the Minister of Health announces the night-time reopening of the Grace, Seven Oaks and Victoria hospitals emergency departments. The Misericordia emergency department will stay closed

Hospital Services cont'd

1996

Cardiac service became a single program delivered at two sites – the Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface General Hospital

March 10, strike at Thompson Hospital now six weeks old; hospital down to 25 beds

March 11, strike at Thompson Hospital over

1997

March 14, the new Riverview Health Centre opened with 150 hospital beds and 225 personal care home beds, replacing the King George and King Edward buildings

March 31, Misericordia Hospital closes its obstetrical unit

April 25, the St. Boniface General Hospital takes emergency measures to cut the number of patients from 500 to 250 by early next week because of a flood threat. All elective surgery cancelled

April 28, the St. Boniface General Hospital sends critically ill patients to the Health Sciences Centre

May 10, the St. Boniface General Hospital prepares for the return of their patients. As many as 350 patients had been transferred over a two-week period. Although the Misericordia and Riverview hospitals were also on alert, only the St. Boniface General Hospital moved patients out

June 11, Grace Hospital's obstetrical unit to close August 31

August 31, decision to close unit postponed for two months to October 31

June 27, last school of nursing graduate class at Misericordia Hospital

Sept. 15, the Deer Lodge Centre is closing 55 temporary beds used for patients awaiting personal care home placement

1999

June 15, the Misericordia Hospital breast cancer clinic closed; a new facility will be opened in September

June 22, the Brandon General Hospital closed 11 of 60 surgical beds until September 7

Hospital Services cont'd

1999 cont'd

November 24, the Minister of Health announced that 138 extra beds in Winnipeg to be staffed to end hallway medicine, 100 by December 1; hospitals say only as needed.

- St. Boniface, 15 beds, but six slated for the psychiatric ward
- Concordia, 2 conference rooms set aside for eight beds
- Seven Oaks, 10 beds
- Deer Lodge Centre, 8 beds
- Brandon, 10 beds

December 8, 24 patients in hallways; administration problems blamed for delay in opening more beds

December 9, the Minister of Health orderd hospitals to open more beds. Another 31 beds to be opened by the end of the day, the Minister said

2000

February 6, parts of the Dauphin General Hospital closed due to an outbreak of mould

2001

March 31, the St. Boniface General Hospital canceling hip and knee surgeries due to budget restraints. The number of procedures in the coming year will be cut from 600 to 480

July 3, a shortage of nurses forces the Dauphin General Hospital to close one quarter of their beds by month's end

2002

September 9, Winnipeg hospitals canceling some elective surgeries in case health care workers strike

September 19, 5,500 CUPE health care support workers at 13 Winnipeg hospitals, personal care homes and support facilities (except the Middlechurch P.C.H.) accept the government's new offer

September 23, 1,500 UFCWU health care support workers at the St. Boniface General Hospital strike. Fifty beds closed and elective surgery cancelled

September 27, health care support workers at St. Boniface General Hospital agree to mediation, end strike and return to work

Influenza Immunization

1994

September, free immunization to:

- adults and children with specified chronic conditions
- residents of personal care homes and other chronic care facilities
- people 65 years of age and over
- certain health care workers

1995

September, 43% of well-elderly and personal care home residents get flu shots. About 10%

more people in target groups (elderly, people under 65 with chronic lung, heart and kidney diseases and all health workers) are getting the shots each year

1996

September, free vaccine available to:

- Adults and children with a specified list of chronic conditions
- Residents of personal care homes and other long-term care facilities
- People 65 years of age and over
- People infected with HIV
- Pregnant women who fall into specified risk groups
- Certain health care workers

2000

People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk were added to the list of persons recommended to receive influenza vaccine at no cost. Examples include hospital, personal care home and home care employees.

Manitoba Health

1993

On March 31 the amalgamation and integration of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Department of Health was finalized with the proclamation of the Health Services Insurance Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act

Manitoba Health Services Commission

1991

April, Manitoba Health announced a major administrative restructuring – the integration of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Department of Health

Manitoba Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest

2000

November 27, release of report on inquest into 12 deaths at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre in 1994

2001

May 24, release of the Thomas Implementation Report on the recommendations in the inquest report

2002

June 12, release of the Year one Public Report on progress of the Thomas Implementation Report

Medical Education

1993

First year medical school enrollment reduced from 80 students to 70 commencing in the 1993/94 academic year

2001

April 2, the province announces plans to purchase the Pan Am Sports Medicine Centre – the deal was finalized in September. Out-patient surgeries will increase from 1500 to 3000 annually

April 25, the government announces a three-stage program to assist international medical graduates to obtain medical licenses in Manitoba

May, the Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program announced, providing conditional grants to eligible medical students, residents, and newly graduated residents in return for a service commitment to Manitoba

July, new financial assistance program for medical students and residents commenced. Graduates can either repay the loans or provide service in Manitoba to reduce their debt

July, 15 new residency positions to be added – nine to train family physicians specifically for rural practice and six to train additional specialties. Five residency positions to be opened to provide rural physicians with advanced skills training

September, 15 additional students to enter first year medicine, restoring enrolment to 85 first-year positions from approximately 72 – 75 during 1991 to 2000

Medical Services

1990

March 31, contract with doctors expired.

August 1, doctors break off contract talks.

August 8, MMA will ask doctors to withdraw services if contract dispute not settled by August 25

August 27, 4-year agreement reached – 3% raise the first year, followed by three years of binding arbitration

1992

March 11, MMA and government have been unsuccessfully negotiating for almost one year – agreed to allow dispute to be heard by a board of arbitration

Sept 6, government accepted arbitrator's recommendation to award doctors a 1.6% increase in fee schedule retroactive to April/91

Physician Resource Committee established to develop a Physician Resource Plan and to manage the supply of physicians. As an interim measure the insurance of all fee-for-service billing numbers on or after Jan 1 has been deemed provisional

1994

February 16, the current level of 2000 doctors to be frozen immediately as part of ratification of contract reached between the government and MMA

February 28, contract calls for a 4% reduction in total fees paid to doctors over the next two years. The province accepted the suggestion the doctors, i.e. MMA, be granted more contract over how the money is spent

Five-year agreement between Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Medical Association signed March 8, 1994 covering period April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1998. Agreement “provides the Minister of Health, in his absolute discretion, to determine the available amount (i.e. the total fee-for-service payments paid in respect to insured medical services) paid to physicians for the final three years”

Physician Resource Committee established to develop a Physician Resource Plan and to manage the supply of physicians. As an interim measure the insurance of all fee-for-service billing numbers on or after Jan 1 has been deemed provisional

1996

A Comprehensive Physician Resource Plan was approved in January and submitted to the Manitoba Medical Services Council and the Minister of Health. It made 18 recommendations relating to economic, education and environmental measures to address the geographic distribution of physicians. All provisional physician billing numbers were converted to valid and active billing numbers as of October

Medical Services cont'd

1997

26 South African physicians recruited and placed in rural communities to alleviate a significant shortage

June, a one-year Rural Emergency Medical Services Agreement implemented

1998

May 26, 30 obstetricians in Winnipeg and Brandon stopped accepting new patients to protest new fees announced by the government almost two weeks ago – the new fees are to be effective July 1

June 3, Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Medical Association signed an Interest Interim Arbitration Agreement

A Memorandum Agreement was signed with the Manitoba Medical Association for new services and fee increases for Family Practitioners effective July 1, 1998 to February 1, 2002

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the Manitoba Medical Association for retroactive payment to specialists for the 15-month period from April 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999

During 1998

Reached agreement with the Manitoba Medical Association on fees for several new services performed by physicians for the first time in Manitoba

Finalized an agreement with the MMA's Section of Anaesthesia for a new fee schedule based on relative value principles

Finalized a new three-year memorandum of agreement on private laboratory services

Between April 1, 1998 and March 31, 1999, 103 physicians were recruited to fill rural vacancies

June 4, province's 2000 doctors have been without a contract since April 1

MMA and government reached an agreement to send their contract dispute to binding arbitration and put an immediate end to service withdrawals throughout the province. Full service resumed today (June 4)

November 9, arbitration hearings began in late October, scheduled to last a total of 60 days and wrap up in November 1999

Medical Services cont'd

1999

The government - reached agreement with the MMA on the fee-for-service allocation of the Interim Arbitration Award of August 3

- Reached agreement with the MMA on several new tariffs and corresponding fees for services provided by physicians, during 99/00
- Finalized a new three-year Memorandum of Agreement regarding a new fee schedule for Ultrasound and MRI services during 99/00
- Negotiated several new alternate funding contracts, during 99/00
- Developed a comprehensive database on all contracts, during 99/00

Telemedicine Services

November 1, Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Medical Association signed a Memorandum of Agreement to amend the Manitoba Physicians Manual to include remuneration for Telemedicine Services as of this date.

Telemedicine Services are medical services provided to a patient at an approved site, through the recording of visual images and transmission of those images to a receiving physician.

Telemedicine Services shall only be provided by specialists at the following sites: Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface Hospital, Thompson General Hospital, The Pas General Hospital, Bethel Hospital, Brandon General Hospital and Dauphin General Hospital.

The following codes have been added for specialists at the receiving sites to claim the equivalent of their existing consultation rates - #4880, #8481, and # 8478. Tariff code #8482 is for physicians who assist patients at the sending sites, and #8479 is for individual psychotherapy.

2000

During 2000/2001, the government reached an agreement with the MMA on new tariffs and benefit rates for medical services

During 2000/2001, implemented fee increases for the Optometry Program

During 2000/2001, negotiated several new Alternate Funding contracts

2001

April 2, the province announced plans to purchase the Pan Am Sports Medicine Centre – the deal was finalized in September. Out-patient surgeries will increase from 1500 to 3000 annually

Medical Services cont'd

2003

January 1, an amount for fee differential will be paid on medical services based on the location that the service was provided rather than the prior criteria in the Physician's Manual. Under the prior criteria "When a physician resides in a location set out in Column II and provides the majority of medical services in another location set out in that Column, the physician shall be entitled to the lower of the differential rates applicable to the two locations"

Column I
Differential Rate

10%
5%
2.5%
0%
0%

Column II
Location of Services
Provided/Location of Residence

Northern Manitoba
Rural Manitoba
Brandon
Winnipeg
Outside of Manitoba

Mental Health Services

1998

Brandon Mental Health Centre closed on March 31

1999

October 29, the new Mental Health Act was proclaimed; very similar to the previous legislation.

The more significant changes include:

6. A presumption of competence for persons in psychiatric facilities at 16 years of age
7. An expansion of the confidentiality and disclosure provisions
8. An expansion of the provisions regarding committership to manage property and/or personal care
9. A requirement to provide notice regarding the impending issuance of an Order of Committeeships
10. An expansion of the provisions regarding the Leave Certificate

Midwifery

2000

June 12, the government approved almost \$2 million to support 26 midwifery positions -16 allocated to the WRHA and 10 to rural and northern health authorities

2001

September 19, two midwifery positions funded in the Brandon Regional Health Authority, one in the Central Regional Health Authority, and one in the Nor-Man Regional Health Authority

MRI

1990

November, St. Boniface Hospital started clinical MRI imaging services

1998

September, Health Sciences Centre opened its MRI unit

1999

May 12, St. Boniface General Hospital's second MRI unit will open in July

Neil John MacLean Health Sciences Library

1996

Opened June 1, 1996

Nursing Education

1995

A new program to train Licensed Practical Nurses commenced in September

June 24, the Brandon School of Nursing graduated its last class of diploma nurses. In collaboration with the University of Manitoba it will be offering a four-year university degree program

1997

Registered nurse education program transferred to the University of Manitoba

60 students in Brandon and 30 in Winnipeg are enrolled in an educational program for Licensed Practical Nurses

June 27, last school of nursing graduate class at Misericordia Hospital

2000

March 8, a 23-month diploma nursing program opened in September at the Red River College with 90 spots available

September, 24 month diploma nursing program accepted 90 students into the new program at Red River College

Enrollment in first year at the University of Manitoba and Brandon increased

Total enrollment of students in Registered Nursing programs – 1257

2001

Approximately 1400 students admitted this year into the University of Manitoba's Bachelor of Nursing (BN) program and the Joint BH Program at Red River College and Keewatin Community College, an increase of 133% from 1997 levels.

350 graduated from the BN program, up from 190 a year ago, 90 two years ago and 60 three years ago

Nursing Services

1990

December 31, threatened nurse's strike less than 24 hours away

December 31, Administrators at Winnipeg's largest hospitals report that hundreds of beds have been closed, elective surgery cancelled and only emergency cases admitted

1996

November 4, Manitoba Nurses' Union agrees to a three-year contract that includes a 2% salary rollback

1998

March 17, the Red River Community College is shutting down its 2-year diploma nursing program

1999

May 7, Assiniboine Community College's LPN educational program to accept 100 additional students this year, more than doubling enrollment

2002

April 1, Manitoba Nurses' Union and the provincial government agree to a 3-year contract

Ophthalmological Services

1993

Adult ophthalmological services in Winnipeg consolidated at the Misericordia Hospital in late 1993

Palliative Care Services

1999

April 13, government announces \$1.2 million funding for home and institutional services in Brandon, rural and southern regional health authorities, and in Winnipeg

Personal Health Identification Number (PHIN)

1993

New Health Registration Certificate containing the PHIN number issued to every Manitoban. The PHIN must be used in the Drug Program Information Network (DPIN) to ensure eligibility and maintain an individual's drug use history

Personal Home Care Services

1991

March, 55 temporary personal home care beds opened at Deer Lodge Centre

1993

During the first three months 124 panelled patients were transferred from HSC and the St. Boniface Hospital to personal care accommodation

1996

August 1, new resident rate structure put into place to ensure equitable rates for all long term care services – minimum rate reduced to \$24.60 per day; maximum increased to \$57.00

August 16 – Nine-week old nursing home strike appeared to be over – Manitoba Health

Organizations accepted mediator's recommendation

1997

The daily residential charge minimum rate was increased to \$24.80 and the maximum to \$57.90 as of August 1

2000

February 6, parts of the Dauphin Personal Care Home closed due to an out break of mould

Pharmacare

1990

Deductible

\$92.75 for families with at least one member 65+ years

\$163.65 for families with at least one member under 65 years

1991

Deductible

\$96.90 for families with at least one member 65+ years

\$171.00 for families with all members under 65 years

1992

Deductible

As of Jan 1, \$106.60 for families with at least one member 65+ years; \$188.10 for families with all members under 65 years

1993

Deductible

As of Jan 1, \$117.25 for families with at least one member 65+ years; \$206.90 for families with all members under 65 years

1994

Deductible

As of Jan 1, \$129.00 for families with at least one member 65+ years; \$227.60 for families with all members under 65 years

1995

Deductible

As of Jan 1, \$130.95 for families where at least one member was 65+ years; \$231.05 with all members under 65 years.

1996

As of Jan 1, the deductible was \$134.40 for families where at least one member was 65+ years and \$237.10 with all members under 65 years

April 1, Pharmacare coverage will be based on both income and the amount paid for eligible prescription drugs. To register for coverage, residents must apply each benefit year. The Pharmacare benefit year is now, April 1st to March 31st

During the benefit year, any eligible drug purchases made prior to applying for Pharmacare coverage will be credited towards the applicant's deductible. Once the deductible has been reached, the resident will receive 100% coverage

Deductibles are now 3% of a family adjusted income of more than \$15,000 or 2% if the adjusted family income is \$15,000 or less

July, Pharmacare will no longer pay the difference between the Drug Interchangeability Formulary listed maximum price allowed for a "do not substitute prescriptions and the cost of the lowest price listed in the interchangeability category." The difference in price will be the patient's responsibility

2002

December 9, the Palliative Care Drug Access Program (PCDAP) became effective. The program provides eligible prescription drugs at no charge to palliative patients at the end stages of life who elect to spend their final days at home or in another residence

Primary Health Care Centres

1999

June, East Borderland PHC Centre in Sprague opened

July, bilingual facility opened in St. Boniface. The Kin Place Centre in Oakbank also opened

2001

October 5, the Beausejour Primary Health Care Centre officially opened

Regional Health Authorities

1997

April 1, 10 rural and northern regional health authorities assumed their mandate - South Eastman, Central, South Westman, Marquette, Interlake, North Eastman, Parkland, Burntwood, Nor-Man, and Churchill

1998

April 1, the Winnipeg Hospital Authority and the Winnipeg Community and Long Term Care Authority assumed their mandate. Also the Brandon Regional Health Authority assumed its mandate

1999

December 1, the Winnipeg Hospital Authority and the Winnipeg Community and Long Term Care Authority were merged to become the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Respite Care

1991

March, there were 42 personal care home sponsors, 21 in Winnipeg and 21 in rural Manitoba

1992

At March 31 there were 42 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg and 23 in rural Manitoba

1993

At March 31 there were 43 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg, and 24 in rural Manitoba

1994

At March 31 there were 42 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg and 23 in rural Manitoba

1995

On March 31, there were 43 personal care home sponsors, 19 in Winnipeg and 24 in rural Manitoba

Supportive Housing

1996

December 16, the first supportive housing facility, designed to extend community care for persons otherwise requiring care in a personal care home, was opened in the Winnipeg Lions Manor at 320 Sherbrook Street

1998

June 1, the second facility was opened at the Winnipeg Arlington Haus, at 880 Arlington Street

1999

May, third facility at 857 Wilkes

September, fourth facility, Heritage House at 12 Portage Place

November, fifth facility, Lions Manor at 330 Maryland Street

Telehealth

2001

November, the first site opened in Norway House

2002

February 26, the new Telehealth network links Winnipeg to two rural sites – Thompson, Flin Flon

May 5, the Brandon Regional Health Centre site added

Services available in 21 Manitoba communities, including six units in three health facilities in Winnipeg – Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface General Hospital and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. The majority of sites opened this year in the following communities – Steinbach, Selkirk, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie, Boundary Trail, Killarney, Brandon, Ashern, Russell, Dauphin, Swan River, Berens River, Norway House, The Pas, Flin Flon, Thompson, Gillam, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake and Churchill

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

1998

May 4, the Act came into force. It governs access to information held by public bodies

The Personal Health Information Act

1997

December 11, the Act came into force. It provides residents with the right of access to their own personal health information