Health Care in Canada

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Health Care in the Canadian Federation

- **Canada's Constitution establishes federal and provincial/territorial responsibilities.**

Federal:
- National principles under the *Canada Health Act* (1984)

- Financial support to the provinces and territories

- Delivery of health services to approximately one million people (First Nations people living on reserves; Inuit; serving members of the Canadian Forces and the RCMP; eligible veterans; inmates in federal penitentiaries; and refugee claimants).

Provincial/Territorial:
- Deliver most of Canada's health care services. This includes:

  - administration of health insurance plans;
  - planning and funding of care in hospitals and other facilities;
  - services provided by doctors and other health professionals;
  - planning and implementation of health promotion and public health initiatives; and
  - negotiation of fee schedules with health professionals.

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The *Canada Health Act* (1984)

- **Federal law which establishes seven national principles that all 13 provinces and territories are expected to meet:**

  – **Public Administration**

  – **Comprehensiveness**

  – **Universality**

  – **Accessibility (reasonable access to medically necessary hospital and physician services without financial or other barriers)**

  – **Portability**

  – **Provision and sharing of health services data**

  – **Recognition of the Federal government's financial contribution**

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U.S. vs. Canada

U.S. :

- **provides social insurance coverage for segments of the population**
  - medicare to those 65+;
  - medicaid for those with low incomes; etc.

- **Mostly private payers (private insurance, HMOs, out-of-pocket) with private delivery**

- **17.4% of GDP spent on health (2009)**

- **Health spending per capita: $7,960 (2009)**
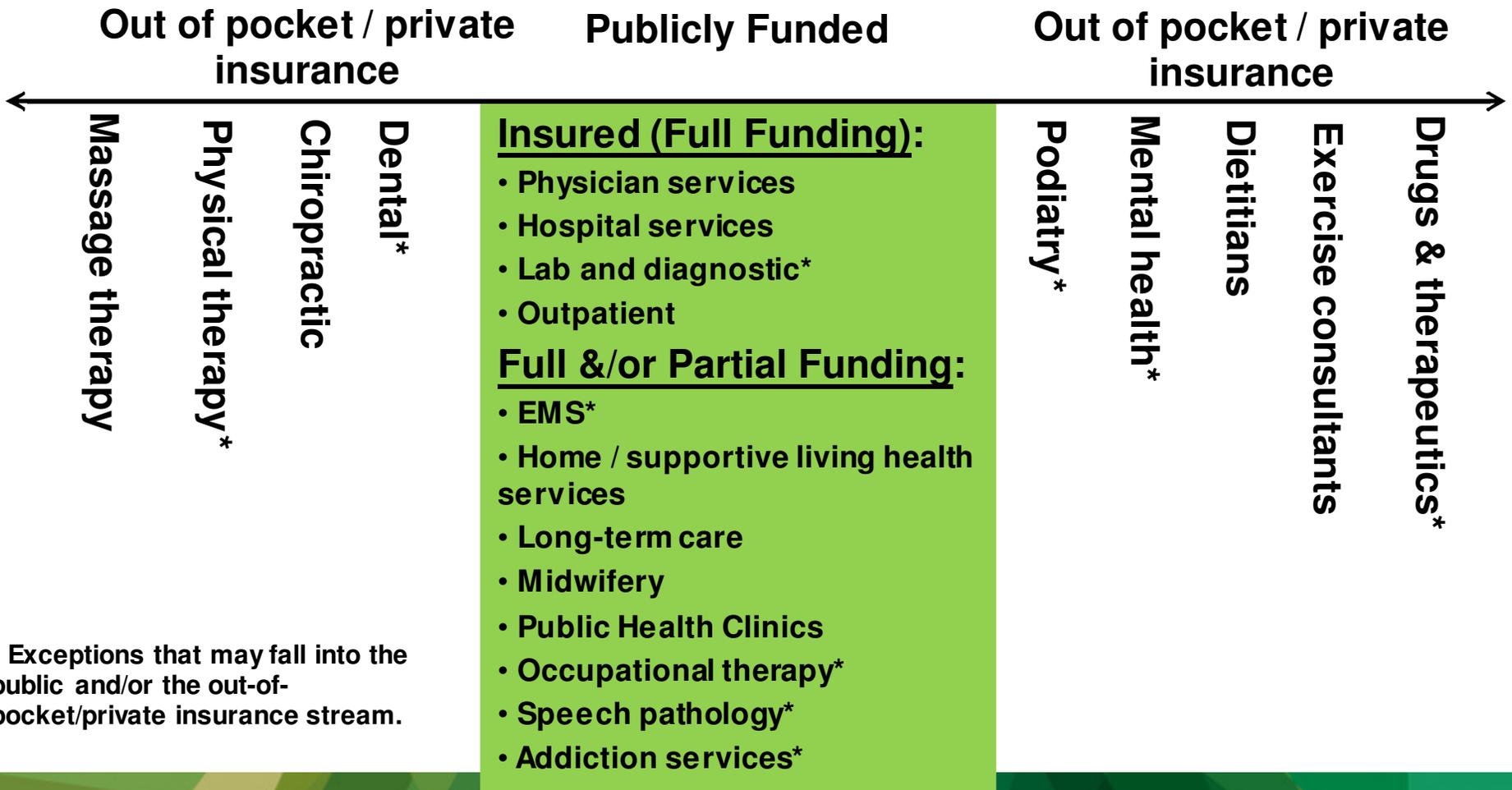
Canada:

- **provides social insurance coverage for segments (types) of care**
  - hospital services
  - physician services

- **Mostly public payers (govt insurance plans) with private delivery (a.k.a. social insurance)**

- **11.4% of GDP spent on health (2009)**

- **Health spending per capita: $4,363 (2009)**

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Differences within Canada

- "Medically necessary" is not defined nationally

- Provinces/territories can chose to deliver services in different ways.

- There are, therefore, 13 different health care systems in Canada.

  – This allows for experimentation and local innovation to meet local needs.

  – Across the 10 provinces, the proportion of 2012/2013 provincial budgets dedicated to health ranges from a low of 32% (New Brunswick) to a high of 45% (Nova Scotia).

    - Alberta has budgeted to spend 38%on health in 2012/2013.

- Provinces/territories have legal obligations through the *Canada Health Act* to provide certain services (in-hospital and physician) if they accept Federal transfers for health purposes, but have chosen (via policy) to offer additional services.

  – While these services vary from province to province, some examples include: prescription drug benefits, nursing home, home care, dental care, optometric services, chiropractic services, hearing aids and transportation services.

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Differences within Canada (cont'd) - Alberta example

Out of pocket / private insurance | **Publicly Funded** | **Out of pocket / private insurance**

Massage therapy

Physical therapy*

Chiropractic

Dental*

Insured (Full Funding):
- Physician services
- Hospital services
- Lab and diagnostic*
- Outpatient

Full &/or Partial Funding:
- EMS*
- Home / supportive living health services
- Long-term care
- Midwifery
- Public Health Clinics
- Occupational therapy*
- Speech pathology*
- Addiction services*

Podiatry*

Mental health*

Dietitians

Exercise consultants

Drugs & therapeutics*

* Exceptions that may fall into the public and/or the out-of-pocket/private insurance stream.

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Alberta vs. Oregon

Alberta:

- Population: approx 3.8M

- Over 8,000 physicians (2012)

- Over 32,000 registered nurses (2012)

- Provincial heath budget was $15.6 billion in 2011/2012
  - additional $5-6 billion is spent privately.

Oregon:

- Population: approx 3.8M

- Over 10,000 physicians (2010)

- Over 35,000 registered nurses (2010)

- State budget for Human Services is $20B for 2011/2013

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Questions?

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