

Table 1: Timeline of healthcare privatization in New Brunswick

Year of handover	Premier (party)	Health care service	Description of service	Private company awarded the service	Comments
1997	McKenna (Lib.)	Tele-Care service	Free bilingual telephone service for non-emergency health issues	Clinidata Inc.	Clinidata Inc. is a for-profit company from Ontario. In 2017, during the administration of Premier Gallant (Lib.), Tele-Care was taken over by Medavie Health Services, a not-for-profit company based in Moncton.
2007	Graham (Lib.)	One Patient, One Record	Province-wide health record system of electronic records and diagnostic imaging reports	Accreon Inc.	Accreon is a for-profit IT consulting firm based in Fredericton.
2007	Graham (Lib.)	Ambulance New Brunswick (ANB)	Provincial ambulance system	Initially, ANB was a Crown corporation but was turned over to Medavie Health Services, together with a centralized 911 ambulance dispatch centre.	In 2017, Premier Gallant (Lib.) renewed agreement for another ten years.
2008	Graham (Lib.)	Nursing homes	Nursing home beds in the province are leased. The Graham government modified the Public Purchasing Act to lease nursing home beds without going through the public tendering process.	Since 2008, most new nursing home contracts in New Brunswick have been awarded to Shannex, a for-profit company based in Nova Scotia.	
2009	Graham (Lib.)	Prescription Drug	Program provides doctors and	The Graham government turned over administration of this	

		Monitoring Program	pharmacists with information on patients' prescriptions.	program to Medavie Health Services.	
2013	Alward (PC)	Electronic Medical Record Program	Goal of program was to modernize the electronic medical record (EMR) system.	Management awarded to the New Brunswick Medical Society (NBMS), a professional association of physicians in New Brunswick.	Next, the NBMS created a for-profit company called Velente, with 51% ownership by NBMS and 49% by Accreon (a for-profit company previously involved in the One Patient, One Record system). Velente later awarded the EMR contract to Intrahealth, a for-profit New Zealand company, relocated to North Vancouver.
2013	Alward (PC)	Medicare cards	Production and distribution of Medicare cards for New Brunswickers was privatized.	Contract awarded to Medavie Blue Cross. This not-for-profit company, together with Medavie Health Services, is part of Medavie, a national health company.	Medavie subcontracted production of Medicare cards to CPI Card Group, a Colorado-based for-profit company.
2013	Alward (PC)	Patient Connect NB	Goal of program was to consolidate all waiting lists of citizens who did not have a doctor or nurse practitioner.	Contract awarded to Assistance Services Group, an Ontario for-profit company.	Program coordinated by linking it to Tele-Care 811 services.
2013	Alward (PC)	NB Drug Program	New prescription plan for citizens lacking a private drug plan, which in 2012 included around 70,000 families.	Administration awarded to Medavie Blue Cross.	

2017	Gallant (Lib.)	Extra-Mural Program	Provides health services directly to homes to reduce hospital admissions and provide support so that people can continue to live in their homes.	Management turned over to Medavie Health Services NB in 2018.	This program was created by Premier Hatfield (PC) in 1981 as a publicly administered service. From 1996 to 2017, it was managed by the two public health authorities, Vitalité and Horizon.
2017	Gallant (Lib.)	Family Medicine New Brunswick	Implementation of the first collaborative primary care clinic under the rubric of FMNB.	Management of this clinic, and eventual network of FMNB clinics, awarded to the New Brunswick Medical Society (NBMS).	NBMS is a not-for-profit professional association of New Brunswick physicians.
2022	Higgs (PC)	eVisitNB	This virtual care/general practitioner consulting service was ostensibly created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Service contracted to Maple, a for-profit company described as Canada's leading virtual care platform.	The Higgs administration initially provided temporary funding for eVisitNB, with costs paid by Medicare. As of 2024, patients are charged <u>monthly fees for Maple membership</u> .
2022	Higgs (PC)	NB Health Link	Service is touted as transitioning the former Patient Connect NB system to one in which patients without a family physician can access healthcare professionals directly or through appointments.	Management of this system contracted to Medavie Health Services NB.	With this development, Medavie Health Services NB currently manages this service as well as ambulance services, the 911 emergency line, the NB Drug Program, training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and the Extra-Mural Program.

2022	Higgs (PC)	Cataract surgeries	In the Chaleur region, Vitalité initiated a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program to reduce waiting times for surgeries.	Program contracted out to Acadie-Bathurst Ophthalmology Centre, a for-profit company, at its Bathurst Clinic.	As with eVisitNB, costs are covered by Medicare.
2022	Higgs (PC)	Education/training of EMTs	Bypassing New Brunswick's public education system, English-language training of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) is now contracted out to a private company.	English-language education and training of EMTs contracted out to Medavie Health Services NB.	French-language training of EMTs continues to take place in the public education system via the NB Community College.
2022	Higgs (PC)	Education/training of nurses	Program for accelerated English-language education and training of 100 New Brunswick students, leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.	Program contracted out to the for-profit Beal University in Maine.	First year is taught entirely online, while the second and third years require in-class sessions two days each week in Bangor, Maine, or at the Sackville (NB) Memorial Hospital.
2022	Higgs (PC)	Education/training of nurses	Creation of a new accelerated Bachelor of Science program in nursing.	Higgs government signed a deal with the for-profit Oulton College, in Moncton.	As with the Beal University contract, the training and education of students is accelerated and takes place over three years.
2022	Higgs (PC)	Recruitment of private	The COVID-19 pandemic	Both governmental health networks, Horizon and Vitalité,	An investigation by NB's auditor general found gross

		(“Travel”) nurses to reverse nursing shortages in the public system	exacerbated the already critical shortages of nurses in the NB health system.	entered into agreements with for-profit companies such as Canadian Health Labs (CHL), a Toronto-based, for-profit recruitment company, to hire health professionals.	mismanagement on the part of CHL, leading Green Party MLA Megan Mitton to comment that CHL must be “laughing all the way to the bank. They have had quite a lucrative time in New Brunswick so far.”
2022	Higgs (PC)	Nursing home essential services staffing	The COVID-19 pandemic created a crisis, with not enough essential services workers to ensure the everyday functioning of nursing homes.	The Higgs government contracted WINMAR NB, a for-profit company, to find workers to clean and distribute food in special care homes.	WINMAR NB subsequently contracted WINMAR Hamilton to secure new workers. This second company found a subcontractor, who in turn found another subcontractor to staff special care homes. New hires were found to lack proper accreditation and training. No background checks were done.
2023	Higgs (PC)	Cataract surgeries	In Miramichi, Horizon Health Network initiated a PPP to reduce waiting times for surgeries.	Program was contracted out to the Miramichi Cataract Surgical Centre, a for-profit company .	The Higgs government announced plans to open similar clinics in other cities.
2024	Higgs (PC)	Expanded support of FMNB network of community collaborative clinics announced.	As of January 2024, the FMNB network consisted of 11 teams/Community Health Centres in various parts of the province, involving more than 56 physicians (personal communication from	These centres are privately owned and managed by the NBMS. FMNB physicians receive blended payments billed to Medicare (60% based on patient roster and 40% reduced fee-for-service). For more info, see the NB Primary Health Care Action Plan .	In parallel, the Horizon Health Authority has announced plans to expand more Community Health Centres and Health Service Centres into collaborative care clinics, some of which adhere to a Patient Medical Home model. More information here and here . Physicians working at these public sector facilities will receive a

			Mr. Eric Beaulieu, NB Deputy Minister of Health, May 24, 2024).		salary or fee-for-service payments, billed to Medicare (personal communication from Mr. Eric Beaulieu, NB Deputy Minister of Health, May 24, 2024).
2024	Higgs (PC)	Cataract surgeries	In Edmundston, Vitalité enters into a PPP with a private ophthalmology clinic.	The beneficiary is the for-profit Edmundston Medical and Surgical Eye Centre .	Higgs delivers on his 2023 pronouncement (above), after another such surgical center was opened in Miramichi.
2024	Higgs (PC)	Two-year pilot project to treat major depressive disorder	In Fredericton, the Horizon Health Network enters into a PPP with the Chalmers Foundation (for funding) and Canadian Health Solutions Inc. (for project management).	Canadian Health Solutions Inc. is a for-profit health management services company, based in Saint John.	Pilot project to be carried out at the Chalmers Regional Hospital and two Canadian Health Solutions Inc. clinics (in Moncton and Saint John). Treatment involves altering electrical activity in the brain via a process known as repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation.
2024	Higgs (PC)	New prescription drug monitoring system (MaveRX).	The NB government enters into a PPP with Leap Orbit LLC for adoption and management of MaveRX, a prescription drug monitoring service .	Leap Orbit is a for-profit healthcare technology company based in Columbia, Maryland.	Criticism of this newest PPP focuses on the lack of attention to harm reduction treatment for non-prescription (street) drug addictions by the Higgs administration.

Source (unless otherwise cited): [New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice](#). Not represented in this table is the expansion of for-profit services that have *not displaced* public healthcare services covered by Medicare. One example of this is Canadian Plasma Resources, which opened in Moncton in 2017, and pays vulnerable persons for donations of their plasma. Also omitted are imaging

services that provide CT scans, ultrasound, and MRI services to those who can afford it. An example of such a service is IRM Moncton MRI. Others include for-profit phlebotomy clinics, such Phlébotomie Belle Baie, offering laboratory blood work services. Also omitted from this table are the [multiple outsourcings of hospital laundry, cleaning, and kitchen services](#) to private companies (often to the lowest bidder).