The Health Systems in Transition (HiT) series consists of country-based reviews that provide a detailed description of a health system and of reform and policy initiatives in progress or under development in a specific country. Each review is produced by country experts in collaboration with the Observatory’s staff. In order to facilitate comparisons between countries, reviews are based on a template, which is revised periodically. The template provides detailed guidelines and specific questions, definitions and examples needed to compile a report. HiTs seek to provide relevant information to support policy-makers and analysts in the development of health systems in Europe. They are building blocks that can be used: • to learn in detail about different approaches to the organization, financing and delivery of health services and the role of the main actors in health systems; • to describe the institutional framework, the process, content and implementation of health care reform programmes; • to highlight challenges and areas that require more in-depth analysis; • to provide a tool for the dissemination of information on health systems and the exchange of experiences of reform strategies between policymakers and analysts in different countries; and • to assist other researchers in more in-depth comparative health policy analysis. The federal government has jurisdiction in specific aspects of health care, including prescription drug regulation and safety; the financing and administration of a range of health benefits and services for eligible First Nations people and Inuit; and public health insurance coverage for members of the Canadian armed forces, veterans, inmates in federal penitentiaries and eligible refugee claimants. In addition, the federal government also has important responsibilities in the domains of public health, health research and health data collection (see section 2.3.2). Health systems in transition Canada 21 The provinces exercise the primary policy responsibility for funding and administering health care