

Proposal to amend Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* to make changes to Ontario Drug Benefit Program coverage for children and youth aged 24 years and under (OHIP+)

January 2, 2019

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding proposed changes to Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* that would, if approved, come into force at a future date.

Further to recent announcements, the government is fixing OHIP+ by focusing benefits on those who need them the most. Beginning in March 2019, children and youth who do not have existing prescription drug benefits covered by private plans will continue to receive coverage through OHIP+. For those children and youth who are covered by private insurance, they will bill those plans.

The proposed regulatory amendments would change the current Ontario Drug Benefit program coverage for children and youth aged 24 years and under who are currently covered under OHIP+ as follows:

- OHIP-insured children and youth 24 years of age and under who do not have private insurance would remain enrolled in the Ontario Drug Benefit program through the OHIP+ eligibility stream, and continue to receive benefits from the Ontario Drug Benefit program without co-payments or deductibles.
- Children and youth (excluding social assistance recipients, recipients of home care, and residents of homes for special care or a community home for opportunity) with private insurance:
 - Would access prescribed medicines as they did prior to the launch of OHIP+ through their private insurer
 - Individuals or families who have significant out-of-pocket costs, despite having private insurance coverage, could apply for additional financial support through the Trillium Drug Program

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Drug and Devices Division

- The Trillium Drug Program is an application-based, income-tested program that is available to all OHIP-insured Ontarians, which helps with prescription drug costs for those with high drug costs compared to their household income. Households enrolled in the Trillium Drug Program would have an annual deductible (divided into quarters) based on their household income, which must be paid before benefits would be funded through the Ontario Drug Benefit program.
- Where the out-of-pocket costs for these children/youth do not reach the Trillium Drug Program deductibles, no public coverage would be provided (unless the child/youth becomes eligible through another eligibility stream, such as social assistance, home care recipient, etc.).
- Where the out-of-pocket costs for these children/youth meet the Trillium Drug Program deductibles, public coverage would be provided under existing program requirements.

Children and youth who are eligible for the Ontario Drug Benefit Program through social assistance, their receipt of home care services, or their residence in a home for special care or community home for opportunity would have no copayments or deductibles.

Private insurance is defined as any type of private plan, program or account which could contribute to the cost of any drug product, regardless of whether:

- the private insurance plan covers the particular drug for which coverage is sought,
- the child or youth or another person captured under the private insurance plan is required to pay a co-payment, deductible, or premium, or,
- the child or youth has reached their annual maximum under the private insurance plan and no further coverage is available.

A summary and draft of the proposed amendments to the regulations are available on the Regulatory Registry website at:

<https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=28346&language=en>

The content of the final regulations are at the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (“LGIC”) who may make the regulations with any changes that the LGIC considers appropriate.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Drug and Devices Division

Interested parties are invited to provide written comments on the proposed changes to the regulations as part of the review. The ministry will consider comments received on or before February 1, 2019 **at midnight EST**. Please be advised that submissions received after this date may not be considered.

Please submit your written comments to:

Drugs and Devices Division
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
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Toronto ON
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Fax: 416-325-6647
E-mail: OHIPplus@ontario.ca

Statement about Comments

Unless requested and otherwise agreed to by the ministry, all materials or comments received from organizations in response to the notice will be considered public information and may be used and disclosed by the ministry as part of its review. The ministry may disclose materials or comments, or summaries of them, to other interested parties during and after the comment period.

An individual who makes a submission and who indicates an affiliation with an organization in his or her submission will be considered to have made his or her submission on behalf of the affiliated organization. The ministry will not disclose any personal information contained in a submission of an individual who does not specify an organizational affiliation in his or her submission without the individual's consent unless required by law. However, the ministry may use and disclose the content of the individual's submission to assist the ministry in its review. If you have any questions about the collection of this information, you can contact the ministry's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 327-7040.