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## Regulation Amendments to Support Sustainability and Access for the Ontario Public Drug Programs

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Sept 18, 2015

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding recent amendments to Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* ("ODBA Regulation") relating to pharmacy savings initiatives that will help to ensure the Ontario Public Drug Programs is efficient, effective and sustainable for generations to come. The amendments have been approved by the Ontario Government and come into force **on October 1, 2015**.

A notice was posted on the ministry's website on July 23, 2015 that provided stakeholders with information on the proposed amendments to the ODBA Regulation. Stakeholders were given a 30-day period to comment on the proposed regulatory amendments.

I would like to thank all those who submitted comments and participated in the consultation process. As a result of the comments we received, the draft regulation was revised to:

- Exempt extemporaneous preparations and drugs supplied to patients on complex medical regimens from the 5 dispensing fees per 365-day period rule to reflect that more frequent dispensing is required in these cases; and
- Grandparent patients who are entitled to have brand products reimbursed as "no substitution" claims under existing program rules.

For the authoritative text of the regulation, please visit the e-Laws website at:

<http://www.ontario.ca/laws>

The ODBA Regulation will implement a number of changes to pharmacy payments and practices, as well as changes to particular programs, to reflect best evidence, increased value for money, and achieve better outcomes.

Patients First: Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care reflects a commitment on the part of the ministry to build a health-care system that is patient-centered. A sustainable drug system, working together with our partners, puts Ontario in the best position to ensure access for patients to drug products that they require.

Questions regarding the ODBA Regulation and the associated initiatives can be directed to:

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