

# **Executive Officer Notice: Improved Access to Exceptional Access Program Drugs for Ontarians Living Near Manitoba and Quebec Borders under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program**

June 14, 2021

The purpose of this notice is to provide information regarding a new regulation under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* (ODBA) that makes Quebec and Manitoba physicians and nurses who have the authority to prescribe drugs “authorized prescribers” for the purposes of Ontario’s Exceptional Access Program (EAP).

In accordance with section 16 of the ODBA, the EAP provides funding for drugs that are not listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary for ODB Program recipients, on a case-by-case basis. In order to fund a drug product under the EAP for a specific ODB Program recipient, the Executive Officer of Ontario Public Drug Programs must receive a funding request from an “authorized prescriber”. The ODBA defines “authorized prescriber” to mean an Ontario physician, Ontario nurse practitioner, or any other person or class of persons specified in a regulation made by the Minister of Health.

Some ODB Program recipients living in Ontario near the Manitoba or Quebec borders are closer to a physician or nurse in Manitoba or Quebec, than to a physician or nurse practitioner in Ontario. To facilitate these recipients’ access to a physician or nurse who can submit an EAP request, a new regulation has been made under the ODBA to make Quebec and Manitoba physicians and nurses who have authority to prescribe drugs “authorized prescribers” for the purposes of the EAP. This regulation is effective as of June 14, 2021.

This new regulation is based on a policy-based pilot that has allowed Quebec and Manitoba physicians to submit EAP requests for ODB Program recipients living in Ontario.

Healthcare providers and patients may access further information about the new regulation in the accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that can be found under the 2021 section at the following link:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp\\_eo/eo\\_communiq.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/eo_communiq.aspx)

The new regulation under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* may be accessed on the e-Laws website at: <http://www.ontario.ca/laws>

**Additional information:**

**For pharmacies:**

If you have any questions, please contact the ministry by email at [PublicDrugPrgms.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:PublicDrugPrgms.moh@ontario.ca) or the ODB Help Desk at 1-800-668-6641.

**For all other health care providers and the public:**

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.