

Ministry of Health  
Drugs and Devices Division

## Notice: Making Changes to the Trillium Drug Program in Response to COVID-19

13 May 2020

As part of Ontario's Action Plan to respond to COVID-19, the Ontario government has made regulatory amendments under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* to extend the in-year deductible reassessment process for households under the Trillium Drug Program (TDP). For the 2019/2020 benefit year, households can now apply to have their deductible reassessed if their 2020 income is different from their 2018 income by 10% or more, including for reasons relating to COVID-19. A reassessed deductible based on 2020 income will apply to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the current 2019/20 benefit year (from May 1 until July 31, 2020).

Deductibles for the 2019/20 benefit year can continue to be reassessed based on 2019 income, if that 2019 income is different from the household's 2018 income by 10% or more.

A new household who wants to apply to the TDP can complete and submit the Trillium Drug Program [application](#).

Existing and new TDP households who want to apply for in-year reassessment of their deductible due to income changes of at least 10% in either 2019 or in 2020, can complete and submit the [Annual Deductible Re-Assessment Form](#).

More information on the Trillium Drug Program can be found on the ministry's website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-help-high-prescription-drug-costs>

## Background

The Trillium Drug Program (TDP) provides benefits, under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, to households with high prescription drug expenses in relation to their household income. Coverage is provided for ODB-eligible prescription drugs after a household incurs out of pocket expenses – called the deductible - of approximately 4% of their net annual income during the TDP benefit year of August 1 to July 31.

For the current 2019/20 benefit year, the annual deductible is calculated based on a household's 2018 tax information, and previously could be reassessed based on their 2019 income, if it changed by 10% or more. Prior to the regulatory amendments described above, any income changes in 2020 could not be reflected in the deductible amount until the next benefit year, which starts on August 1st, 2020.

### **For pharmacies:**

Please call ODB Pharmacy 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