Notice from the Executive Officer: Policy for Methadone Maintenance Treatment Reimbursement under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

Dear Pharmacy Owner / Operator:
This is an update to the Methadone Maintenance Treatment Reimbursement Policy, 2014 for all pharmacies that dispense methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) for opioid addiction under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program.

The change in reimbursement of MMT under the ODB program reflects the addition of Methadose (methadone) 10mg/mL oral solution as a formulary benefit.

- Effective June 26th, 2014, Methadose (methadone) 10mg/mL oral solution will be listed on the ODB Formulary as a General Benefit for MMT for addiction.

- Methadone extemporaneous compounded solution for MMT will no longer be an ODB benefit on August 1st, 2014. This allows for a 1 month transition period.

Table 1: Methadone ODB Formulary Listing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIN/PIN</th>
<th>BRAND NAME</th>
<th>STRENGTH</th>
<th>DOSAGE FORM</th>
<th>MFR</th>
<th>DBP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02394596</td>
<td>Methadose</td>
<td>10mg/mL</td>
<td>oral solution Cherry flavoured</td>
<td>Mallinckrodt Canada</td>
<td>$0.15/mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02394618</td>
<td>Methadose</td>
<td>10mg/mL</td>
<td>oral solution Dye Free, Sugar Free, Unflavored</td>
<td>Mallinckrodt Canada</td>
<td>$0.15/mL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methadone Maintenance Treatment Reimbursement Policy, 2014

As a precondition to obtaining billing privileges under the Ontario Drug Benefit Act, all pharmacy operators are required to enter into a Health Network System (HNS) Subscription Agreement with the Executive Officer. Under section 3.2 of this Agreement, pharmacy operators are required to comply with all Applicable Law, Ontario College of Pharmacists Rules, and Ministry Policies.

The Executive Officer of the Ontario Public Drug Programs of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the “Ministry”) hereby establishes a methadone policy for the reimbursement of methadone for all pharmacy operators in Ontario that supply methadone to Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) eligible persons.
requiring methadone maintenance treatment for opioid addiction (MMT) (hereinafter, referred to as the “Policy”).

Under this Policy the Ministry will reimburse all pharmacy claims for the ODB Formulary listed product, Methadose (methadone) 10mg/mL oral solution that is dispensed to ODB eligible persons undergoing MMT in the manner outlined below.

1. Dispensing

The Ministry will pay pharmacies one ODB dispensing fee per day ($8.83 or the applicable rural dispensing fee) for dispensing Methadose (methadone) 10mg/mL oral solution for an ODB eligible person for MMT. One fee is paid for each daily supply that is provided to an ODB eligible person by the pharmacy via the Health Network System (HNS).

Please note that persons working toward their Trillium deductible are not ODB eligible persons, and as such their MMT claims do not fall under this Policy.

2. Drug costs plus mark-up

The Ministry will reimburse the pharmacy for the Drug Benefit Price as listed on the ODB Formulary in respect of each claim for Methadose (methadone) 10mg/mL oral solution plus an 8% mark-up on that amount.

3. No co-payment

No co-payment may be charged to the ODB eligible person with respect to the supply of methadone for maintenance treatment.

4. Amendments and Updates

The Ministry may make changes to this Policy at any time upon giving at least 30 days notice to Ontario pharmacy operators via the One-Mail system.

Ministry requirements for reimbursement of methadone claims under the Policy

Requirements for Pharmacy Operators:

- A separate claim must be submitted on-line for each day’s supply of methadone for ODB eligible persons undergoing MMT (i.e. one claim for each day’s supply) using the appropriate Methadose 10mg/mL solution’s drug identification number (DIN) and the quantity of Methadose 10mg/mL oral solution dispensed.
- Claims for individual carry doses must be submitted on the date the carries are dispensed.
- No co-payment amount or additional charge is to be collected from ODB eligible persons receiving methadone for MMT.
- No compounding time is permitted for the dispensing of Methadose 10mg/mL oral solution. When Methadose 10mg/mL oral solution is diluted prior to dispensing as directed by the Ontario College
of Pharmacists Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) and Dispensing Policy, this practice is not considered compounding.

- The quantity of Methadose 10mg/mL oral solution used in dispensing the final prescribed methadone dose must be entered as milliliters of drug dispensed. The milligrams of drug prescribed must be converted to millilitres of drug dispensed and entered as a single dose for the submission to the Health Network System (HNS) and the Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS). For example, if the physician prescribed methadone 100 mg each day, the claims submission to the HNS and the NMS record must indicate a quantity of 10 millilitres of Methadose 10mg/mL oral solution.

- The pharmacy-generated prescription label must comply with the OCP Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) and Dispensing Policy.

- The drug cost, plus 8% mark-up and applicable dispensing fee are to be submitted on-line via the HNS. The prescription receipt must indicate a zero co-payment amount.

**Use of extemporaneous compounded methadone solution:**

- Effective August 1\(^{st}\), 2014, the extemporaneously compounded methadone solution prepared using methadone powder will no longer be funded under the ODB program for MMT.

- The Product Identification Number (PIN) 09850619 used for MMT claims submission will be discontinued end of day on July 31\(^{st}\), 2014.

**Pharmacy Transition to the Methadone Maintenance Treatment Reimbursement Policy, 2014**

All Ontario pharmacies are required to comply with the Methadone Maintenance Treatment Policy effective June 26\(^{th}\), 2014.

There are three different situations for pharmacies regarding MMT dispensing and transition to the new policy.

1. Ontario pharmacies that currently hold the MMT Capitation Agreement with the Executive Officer are hereby notified that the terms of that agreement will end on June 25th, 2014, one day prior to the effective date of the Policy. In addition, effective immediately, no new MMT Capitation Agreements will be issued during the interim period.

2. Ontario pharmacies that do NOT hold the MMT Capitation Agreement with the Executive Officer and currently dispense MMT as a fee for service model (claiming one dispensing fee for MMT witness doses and one fee for all MMT carry doses) will begin dispensing MMT as per the requirements of the Policy on June 26th, 2014, the effective date of the Policy.

3. All other Ontario pharmacies, should they dispense MMT for ODB eligible recipients in the future are required to comply with the Policy as of the effective date. Pharmacies that begin dispensing methadone for MMT during the interim period between now and the effective date of the Policy are required to dispense under the fee for service model outlined in category 2 above.