

Notice from the Executive Officer: Health Network System (HNS) Changes to Support the Maximizing Quantity Dispensed for Chronic-Use Medications Initiative

June 10, 2016

This notice is to provide you with confirmation that IT changes to the Health Network System (HNS) will be implemented **effective June 26, 2016** to support the maximizing quantity dispensed initiative.

In accordance with subsection 18 (11.1) of Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* (ODBA), **effective October 1, 2015**, pharmacies are only entitled to receive a maximum of five (5) dispensing fees per 365-day period for certain chronic-use medications, commencing on the day the first claim for an identified chronic-use medication is submitted to the ministry on or after October 1, 2015.

Dispensers are encouraged to provide most Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) recipients with a 100 days' supply of most chronic-use medications to ensure that they receive a dispensing fee for each dispensing event.

The chronic-use medications subject to this rule are listed on the Ministry's website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/notices/exec_office_20150917_list.pdf.

For more information on this and other initiatives implemented as of October 1, 2015, please visit the Ministry website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/eo_communiq.aspx

The first claim for all chronic-use medications after October 1, 2015 will be counted as the first dispense. Where 5 or more dispensing fees have been paid since the date of the first dispense, pharmacies will not be entitled to receive additional fees until 365 days after the first dispense date.

In addition, effective June 26, 2016, HNS changes will be implemented to change the 2-fees per calendar month rule to 2-fees per 28 days, to better align this rule with common dispensing practices.

A Questions and Answers guide for pharmacists has been developed for your reference. For any remaining questions, please contact the ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-800-668-6641 or email your questions to: PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca