

## Ontario Public Drug Programs

# Notice from the Executive Officer: Amendment to Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* to Create and Implement OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

September 1, 2017

As part of the 2017 Budget and the government's ongoing commitment to provide better and faster access to high-quality health services, Ontario is creating OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare.

OHIP+ creates a new eligible class of Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program recipients. As of January 1, 2018, under OHIP+ the province will provide drug coverage at no cost for eligible children and youth who are covered by OHIP and aged 24 or under, regardless of family income. Over four million Ontario children and youth will have publicly funded access to over 4,400 drug products, and additional drugs eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP).

Enrollment in OHIP+ will be automatic based on age and OHIP coverage. For eligible children and youth, there will be no applications necessary, and no upfront costs to acquire eligible medications at a pharmacy. Those eligible will only need to have their health card number and a valid prescription. Children/youth already enrolled in the ODB program will benefit as they will no longer need to pay a copayment and/or deductible for medications received under the program.

Amendments to O. Reg. 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* (ODBA) were required to create and implement OHIP+. The main regulatory amendments are as follows:

- prescribe persons who have OHIP coverage and are aged 24 or under as a class of “eligible persons” for the purposes of the ODB Program;
- specify that no co-payment may be charged to ODB-eligible persons who are under 25; and,
- prescribe the implementation of OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare as a purpose for which the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care may collect, use and disclose personal information under section 13 of the ODBA.

An additional change was implemented based on feedback from the regulatory registry posting for OHIP+ that closed on August 10, 2017. The change ensures that all ODB recipients aged 24 and under are eligible to receive up to a 100 day supply per prescription. Currently, Ontario Works (OW) recipients eligible for ODB are subject to a maximum 35 day supply. This change ensures that OW recipients under 25 who receive drug coverage through OHIP+ or through their social assistance status receive up to a 100 day supply of medication.

Covering the cost of eligible prescription medication will help provide our children and youth with a healthy start to life.

**Additional Information:**

**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