

Notice from the Executive Officer: *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* Proposed Regulatory Amendment to Support the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (OBIP)

January 10, 2018

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding a proposed amendment to Ontario Regulation 201/96 (made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*) that, if approved, would be retroactive to **July 1, 2017** to align with when the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (OBIP) was first launched.

The proposed amendment would, if approved, create a new class of eligible recipients under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program. Specifically, the proposed amendment would prescribe persons who were entitled to receive drug benefits under the *Ontario Works Act, 1997* or the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997* immediately prior to receiving Basic Income payments under the OBIP as a class of eligible persons for the purpose of the ODB Program.

OBIP is a program offered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services that will test whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers, improve health and education outcomes for people with low incomes, and help ensure that everyone shares in Ontario's economic growth.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's ODB Program provides drug benefits to various classes of eligible persons, including persons entitled to receive drug benefits under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997* and the *Ontario Works Act, 1997*. In order to receive Basic Income payments, OBIP participants must withdraw from social assistance (i.e. Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program). As a result, OBIP participants who were previously eligible to receive drug benefits through the ODB Program because they received social assistance would no longer qualify for ODB coverage on this basis. To ensure that these individuals do not lose their drug benefits during their

participation in the OBIP, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is proposing to amend O. Reg. 201/96 to specify that these individuals continue to be entitled to receive drug benefits as eligible persons under the ODBA so long as they are in receipt of Basic Income payments.

A summary of the proposed amendment to the regulation is available on the Regulatory Registry website at:

<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=26246&language=en>
(English)

<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?language=fr&postingId=26246>
(French)

The content of the final regulation is at the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (“LGIC”) who may make the regulation with any changes that the LGIC considers appropriate.

Interested parties are invited to provide written comments on the proposed changes to the regulation. The ministry will consider comments received on or before **January 12, 2018 at midnight EST** (“comment period”). Please be advised that submissions received after the comment period may not be considered.

Please submit your written comments to:

Executive Officer, Ontario Public Drug Programs
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor Street, 9th Floor
Hepburn Block, Queen's Park
Toronto ON
M7A 1R3
Fax: 416-325-6647
E-mail: PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca

Statement about Comments

Unless requested and otherwise agreed to by the ministry, all materials or comments received from organizations in response to the notice will be considered public information and may be used and disclosed by the ministry as part of its review. The ministry may disclose materials or comments, or summaries of them, to other interested parties during and after the comment period.

An individual who makes a submission and who indicates an affiliation with an organization in his or her submission will be considered to have made his or her submission on behalf of the affiliated organization. The ministry will not disclose any personal information contained in a submission of an individual who does not specify an organizational affiliation in his or her submission without the individual's consent unless required by law. However, the ministry may use and disclose the content of the individual's submission to assist the ministry in its review.

If you have any questions about the collection of this information, you can contact the ministry's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 327-7040.