

Notice from the Executive Officer: Funding of Hepatitis B Drugs under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

February 21, 2018

Effective **February 28, 2018**, the following drugs used for the treatment of chronic Hepatitis B infection will be available as Limited Use (LU) benefits under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary):

- **Lamivudine (Heptovir and generic);**
- **Entecavir (Baraclude and generics);** and
- **Tenofovir (Viread and generics).**

Previous to the February formulary update, the above drugs used for chronic Hepatitis B infection were covered under Exceptional Access Program (EAP). An EAP application will no longer be required for funding as long as ODB eligible patients meet the Reason For Use (RFU)/LU criteria.

Tenofovir (viread and generics) will continue to be listed as an eligible drug product through the Facilitated Access to HIV/AIDS Drug Products mechanism. However, effective **February 28, 2018** a prescription with the appropriate RFU code will be required.

Details of the RFU/LU criteria will also be posted in the February 2018 Formulary update at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition_43.aspx

In addition, effective **February 28, 2018**, **adefovir (Hepsera and generics)** will no longer be funded under EAP. New requests will no longer be accepted. However, patients currently receiving funding for adefovir through EAP will continue to receive funding as long as they require treatment with adefovir.

To further inform health care providers and patients, we have also included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document.

Additional Information:

For pharmacies:

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Ontario Public Drug Programs

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.