

Ministry of Health
Drugs and Devices Division

Executive Officer Notice: Proposed Regulatory Amendments to Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program Co-payments and Dispensing Fees

1 May 2020

The purpose of this notice is to notify you of proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 201/96 under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* (ODBA) that, if approved, would reduce additional co-payments and dispensing fees that have arisen due to a recommendation that drugs be dispensed in a 30-day supply even though a greater quantity has been prescribed or is payable under the ODB Program to protect the drug supply chain and prevent drug shortages due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 emergency.

The proposed amendments, if approved, would ensure that ODB Program recipients are only charged one co-payment for a 30+ day-supply of medication that is now being dispensed in instalments in accordance with the ministry's supply limit recommendation. The proposed amendments would also reduce the dispensing fee paid to pharmacies and dispensing physicians for the third dispensing instalment, if applicable.

A summary and text of the proposed amendments are available on the Regulatory Registry at the link below:

<https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/quickSearch.do?searchType=current&order=down&sortBy=due>

Title: *COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Relief from Additional Co-Payment*

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

Interested parties are invited to provide written comments on the proposed changes to the regulations as part of the review. The ministry will consider comments received on or before **May 2, 2020 at midnight EST**. Please be advised that submissions received after this date may not be considered.

Please submit your written comments to:

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Fax: 416-325-6647
E-mail: PublicDrugPrgms.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.