

Notice from Executive Officer - October 31, 2006

The *Transparent Drug System for Patients Act* has introduced large changes in Ontario's prescription drug system. The *Act*, and supporting regulations, came into force as of October 1, 2006. With such wide-ranging system and operational changes that the ministry is now effecting, I recognize that there are implementation issues that need to be resolved. Generic pricing is one such issue, as is the current Cost-To-Operator provision.

Over the past two weeks, the ministry has consulted with and listened very carefully to those people and organizations - such as pharmacists, manufacturers, and wholesalers, among others - who are deeply involved in the implementation of these system changes. The ministry fully acknowledges the issues raised and is acting quickly to resolve these issues. I will respond in detail tomorrow, by outlining the specific resolutions in a second bulletin.

As a first step, the ministry will extend the timeframe for the Cost-to-Operator provision beyond November 1, 2006. In addition, the ministry will publish a further update to the Formulary later in November, 2006.

I understand that it will take time to adapt to change, and I ask for the cooperation of all parties in working through this period.

Ronald Sapsford
Executive Officer
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care