

NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

March 23, 2011

Increase in Dispensing Fees, effective April 01, 2011

As set out in the Regulations under the *Ontario Benefit Act* (ODBA), which were effective July 01, 2010, pharmacies are entitled to receive an annual increase in the dispensing fee paid for prescriptions reimbursed under the ODB program, on April 01 of each year until 2014. Effective April 01, 2011, the dispensing fee paid for most ODB prescriptions will increase to \$8.20. In addition, pharmacies that are eligible to receive higher dispensing fees based on location in rural and remote areas (i.e. the pharmacy must be located in an area where the second figure of the postal code is '0' or the pharmacy's score on the Rurality Index for Ontario is greater than 40) will also receive increases, based on the distance between pharmacies:

If there is no other pharmacy within 5 km, the fee increases to \$9.22.

If there is only one other pharmacy within a 5 km radius, the fee increases to \$9.22.

If the nearest other pharmacy is between 5 km and 10 km away, the fee increases to \$9.22.

If the nearest other pharmacy is between 10 km and 25 km away, the fee increases to \$11.28.

If the nearest other pharmacy is 25km or more away, the fee increases to \$12.30.

Please ensure your pharmacy software systems are updated appropriately for April 01, 2011. Claims submitted with an incorrect fee are not eligible for resubmission to claim for a higher dispensing fee.