

Bulletin



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3072	January 16, 2006	Ministry of Transportation Licensing Assistance Office 2680 Keele St. Bldg 'A' Downsview, ON M3M 3E6 (416) 235-2999
Distribution		
Designated Physiotherapy Clinics		

Subject: Changes to the Ministry of Transportation's Disabled Person Parking Program (DPPP).

To help strengthen and improve the program, the ministry has:

- Changed the program name to **Accessible Parking Permit (APP) Program**, to better align with the government's commitment to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005;
- Revised the eligibility criteria to enhance reliance on measurable and observable conditions that affect mobility and improve the certification process;
- Amended the list of medical professionals who can certify an APP application to include Nurse Practitioners Extended Class [RN(EC)] and remove Osteopaths;
- Improved business processes to expedite processing of applications and to enhance data management;
- Introduced more secure, tamper-resistant permits to address fraud and misuse; and,
- Introduced a new Traveller Permit to allow permit holders who park in designated Ontario airport parking spaces at their point of departure to use their regular permit at their destination.

The eligibility criteria has been changed in response to stakeholder concerns that the current criteria, "not being able to walk without assistance for more than 200 metres (218 yards) without serious difficulty or danger to safety or health", was open to interpretation. The new eligibility criteria, which was developed in consultation with the medical community and organizations representing people with disabilities, has been amended to include people who:

- a) Cannot walk without assistance of another person or a brace, cane, crutch, a lower limb prosthetic device or similar assistive device or who require the assistance of a wheelchair,
- b) Suffer from lung disease to such an extent that forced expiratory volume in one second is less than 1 litre,
- c) Require portable oxygen as a medical necessity,
- d) Suffer from cardiovascular disease impairment classified as Class III or Class IV to standards accepted by the American Heart Association or Class III or IV according to the Canadian Cardiovascular Standard,
- e) Have a severely limited ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, musculoskeletal or orthopedic condition,
- f) Have a visual acuity of 20/200 or poorer in the better eye with or without corrective lenses or whose greatest diameter of the field of vision in both eyes is 20 degrees or less, and
- g) Have a condition(s) or functional impairment that severely limits his or her mobility.

Temporary, Subject to Change and Permanent

- Health practitioners now have the option of selecting the type and duration the permit will be valid for. Temporary permits are valid for any period up to two years. Subject to Change opinion will result in a five-year permit being issued to the applicant with medical re-certification required to renew the permit. Permanent opinion will result in a five-year permit being issued to the applicant with no future medical re-certification required to renew the permit.

Benefits to Health Practitioners

- No future re-certification for patients with permanent disabilities. This will reduce the volume of forms practitioners will be required to complete and sign, over time.
- A revised, easy-to-follow application form.
- Less pressure on health practitioner by providing standardized eligibility criteria that are measurable and observable.

Benefits to People with Disabilities

- No future re-certification for people with permanent disabilities.
- Access to RN(EC)s to certify applications.
- Secure tamper resistance permits that will result in less fraud and misuse, free up designated parking for qualified permit holders.
- Application processing periods have been reduced from 7 weeks to 4 weeks.

Questions and Answers

Q1 Who can approve an APP application?

A1 A regulated health practitioner, who is legally qualified to practice in Canada as a physician, chiropractor, occupational therapist, physiotherapist or registered nurse practitioner in the extended class may approve an APP application.

Q2 If my patient had a permit under the old program, will they automatically be eligible for certification under the new program?

A2 No. Regulated health practitioners may recommend eligibility based on any of the seven new medical criteria. Everyone under the current program must be medically re-certified by his or her health practitioner once under the new criteria. Renewal notices are sent to permit holders who hold five-year permits in advance of their expiry date. A renewal for new permit will not be accepted more than six months prior to expiry date.

Q3 How does my patient apply for an Accessible Parking Permit (APP)?

A3 Patients and health practitioners can obtain applications for an Accessible Parking Permit (APP):

- Visit www.mto.gov.on.ca to download and print an application form;
- Pick up an application at any Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office;
- Request an application by mail from:
Ministry of Transportation
Licensing Administration Office
2680 Keele Street, Building A
Downsview, ON M3M 3E6
- For more information please call the Licensing Assistance Office at (416) 235-2999.

Note: Health practitioners are welcome to request applications using the same procedures.

Q4 Where do I direct my patients to send their completed applications?

A4 Completed applications can be taken to a Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office or send by mail to:

Ministry of Transportation
Licence Renewal Office
P.O. Box 9800
Kingston, ON K7L 5N8

Q5 Under “Status of Condition” on the application form, what is the difference between Permanent and Subject to Change?

A5 Permanent status refers to applicants whose condition will not improve and, therefore, the applicant will not be required to be medically re-certified for renewal of their APP.

Subject to Change refers to applicants who have condition(s) that may improve and will require medical re-certification, as a condition of renewal in five years.

Q6 If my patient’s condition isn’t listed in the criteria, could they still be eligible?

A6 Yes. The Ministry of Transportation recognizes that some people will have condition(s) or functional impairment that severely limit their mobility, but are not specifically identified in the eligibility criteria. Health practitioners need to determine if the condition or functional impairment severely impacts their patient’s mobility.

Note: A patient’s age does not automatically qualify them for a permit.