

Executive Officer Notice

Reminder of Upcoming Changes for April 1, 2014

March 11, 2014

This notice is to remind you of regulatory changes that take effect on **April 1, 2014**. The upcoming regulatory changes involve an increase in the dispensing fees for the Ontario Drug Benefit Program set out in subsection 13(4) of Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*.

Effective April 1, 2014, the dispensing fee paid for most ODB prescriptions will increase to \$8.83. In addition, pharmacies that are eligible to receive higher dispensing fees based on their 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 \$9.93
- If there is only one other pharmacy within a 5 km radius, the fee increases to \$9.93
- If the nearest other pharmacy is between 5 km and 10 km away, the fee increases to \$9.93
- If the nearest other pharmacy is between 10 km and 25 km away, the fee increases to \$12.14
- If the nearest other pharmacy is 25km or more away, the fee increases to \$13.25

Please ensure your pharmacy software systems are updated appropriately for April 1, 2014. Claims submitted with an incorrect fee are not eligible for resubmission for a higher dispensing fee.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and continued co-operation in making these adjustments.