

# Notice: Proposal to update the Income Eligibility Thresholds for the Seniors Co-Payment Program under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

March 26, 2021

This notice provides information regarding proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 201/96 (the Regulation) under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* (ODBA) that, if approved, would increase the income eligibility thresholds for the Seniors Co-Payment Program (SCP) to \$22,200 for single seniors and \$37,100 for senior couples, starting August 1, 2021. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to ensure that the income eligibility thresholds continue to reflect cost-of-living increases in Ontario and are higher than income supports for seniors.

The current income eligibility thresholds for SCP are \$19,300 for single seniors and \$32,300 for senior couples, and were last updated in 2016. The current thresholds are below the government income supports that some seniors receive, thus impacting SCP eligibility for some seniors.

All seniors aged 65 and over automatically qualify for the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program. Seniors pay a \$100 annual deductible before they are eligible for drug coverage. After the deductible is paid, seniors then pay up to \$6.11 toward the dispensing fee per prescription during the benefit year of August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Seniors enrolled in the SCP pay only a \$2 co-payment per eligible prescription, with no annual deductible. The SCP is an application-based program for seniors who meet the income eligibility thresholds.

This proposal is in support of people and families in Ontario and in line with the government commitment to provide benefits to those who need them the most.

A summary of the regulatory proposal is available on the Regulatory Registry website at: <https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=36771&language=en>

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

Interested parties are invited to provide written comments on the proposed changes to the regulation as part of the review. The ministry will consider comments received on or before March 31, 2021 at 11:59PM EST. Please be advised that submissions received after this date may not be considered. Please submit your written comments to:  
E-mail: [PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:PublicDrugPrgrms.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.