

***Updated* – Notice from the Executive Officer: Reimbursement and Claims Submission using the Health Network System relating to Drugs for Medical Assistance in Dying**

Effective April 1, 2022

This is an update and replaces the Executive Officer (EO) notice dated August 10, 2016.

This update includes the addition of a new oral secobarbital protocol for self-administration to replace the phenobarbital protocol, and text revisions.

Overview

This notice provides information to pharmacies and dispensing physicians¹ regarding reimbursement and claim submissions for drugs used for medical assistance in dying (MAID) using the Health Network System.

Ontario is committed to providing quality, compassionate care through the varying stages of the end of life. This includes publicly funding drugs used for MAID when provided in accordance with federal law.

Pharmacists and dispensing physicians must be familiar with the policies provided by their respective professional colleges. The colleges' policies can be found on the following websites:

- Ontario College of Pharmacists: www.ocpinfo.com
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario: www.cpsso.on.ca

You can also access the ministry's website for more information:

www.ontario.ca/page/medical-assistance-dying-and-end-life-decisions or email at endoflifedecisions@ontario.ca.

¹ The term “dispensing physician” refers to a physician who has a valid Health Network System (HNS) Subscription Agreement with the ministry and is connected to the HNS.

Compliance

This notice and the accompanying Frequently Asked Questions constitute a ministry policy that pharmacy operators and dispensing physicians must comply with when submitting claims through the HNS for dispensing drugs used in MAID. Compliance with the ministry policy is required under section 3.2 of the HNS Subscription Agreement for Pharmacy Operators and Dispensing Physicians (“HNS Agreement”).

Patient Eligibility

Federal legislation governs the provision of MAID. Providers are encouraged to contact their respective regulatory college for more information and guidance about who is eligible to receive MAID.

Individuals in Ontario who are insured persons under the *Health Insurance Act* and able to receive MAID under federal law are eligible to receive publicly funded drugs for MAID (“eligible persons”).

Procedures for Dispensing and Billing

- Pharmacists and dispensing physicians must ensure that the eligible person’s correct date of birth, health card number (or Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) eligibility number) and name (as it appears on the Ontario Health Card or ODB eligibility documentation) are entered accurately as part of the HNS claims submission, as applicable. Failure to do so especially for non-Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) eligible persons may impact the ability to submit future claims for these individuals.
- Pharmacies and dispensing physicians will purchase drug(s) and the required supplies to assemble the MAID kits in accordance with Table 1 below.

Documentation Requirements for MAID drugs

Standard documentation requirements for prescriptions apply. Pharmacists and dispensing physicians shall keep records consistent with their obligations under, as applicable, the *Pharmacy Act, 1991*, the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act, 2010*, the *Medicine Act, 1991*, their HNS Agreement, and any instructions provided by the Ontario College of Pharmacists, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or the ministry.

For billing purposes, documentation must be maintained in a readily available format for the purpose of ministry inspection for a period of at least 10 years from the last recorded pharmacy service provided to the eligible person, or 10 years after the day on which the eligible person reached or would have reached the age of 18 years, whichever is longer. Dispensing by a dispensing physician is considered a pharmacy service.

This policy will also be incorporated into the Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual (the “Manual”). Pharmacies and dispensing physicians must comply with recordkeeping requirements as set out in the Manual, in accordance with section 29 of Ontario Regulation 201/96 (under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*) and their HNS Agreement.

Billing procedure for MAID drugs

Drugs for MAID provided to eligible persons (based on the regimen prescribed) will be reimbursed by the ministry. The product identification numbers (PINs) are used for both ODB-eligible and non-ODB eligible persons for the purposes of billing the value of the drugs in Ontario.

Funded MAID Drug Protocols

Pharmacists and dispensing physicians should work with prescribers and eligible persons to determine the appropriate MAID drug regimen for individual cases.

Table 1: PINs to support reimbursement of MAID kits

PIN	Description	Contents in MAID Kit*	Total Amount Reimbursed
93877101	MAID intravenous (IV) Kit with Supplies	Midazolam 1mg/mL Lidocaine 2% (without epinephrine) Magnesium Sulfate 500mg/mL Propofol 10mg/mL Cisatracurium Besylate 2mg/mL Rocuronium Bromide 10mg/mL Sodium Chloride (NaCl 0.9%) Syringes and tubes	\$325.00
93877102	MAID IV Kit (backup) with Supplies	Same as above	\$325.00
93877103	MAID IV Kit with Phenobarbital and Supplies	Midazolam 1mg/mL Lidocaine 2% (without epinephrine) Magnesium Sulfate 500mg/mL Propofol 10mg/mL Phenobarbital 120mg/mL	\$999.00

PIN	Description	Contents in MAID Kit*	Total Amount Reimbursed
		Cisatracurium Besylate 2mg/mL Rocuronium Bromide 10mg/mL Sodium Chloride (NaCl 0.9%) Syringes and tubes	
93877104	MAID IV Kit (backup) with Phenobarbital and Supplies	Same as above	\$999.00
93877105	MAID Self-Administration Kit (Hydromorphone/Morphine)	Metoclopramide 10 mg Ondansetron 8 mg Propranolol 40 mg Morphine Sulfate (liquid) Morphine Sulfate 30 mg Hydromorphone 1 mg/mL liquid Hydromorphone 8 mg	\$110.00
93877110 (New)	MAID Self-Administration Kit (Secobarbital)	Secobarbital 15 g (mixture) Metoclopramide 10 mg Dexamethasone 8 mg Ondansetron 8 mg	\$665.00

* Dispensers need to ensure that they select the appropriate quantities, package sizes, and brand of the product from the applicable guidelines and protocols.

Claims must be submitted using the ministry-assigned PIN associated with the appropriate MAID kit dispensed. Do not use the Drug Identification Numbers (DINs) of the products in each MAID kit.

Note that for MAID kits, it is best practice for a primary kit and a back-up kit to be dispensed at the same time for a patient.

- For MAID intravenous (IV) kits, the back-up kit will have the same drugs as the primary kit. For example, primary is PIN 93877101 and the backup is PIN 93877102.
- For MAID Self-Administered kit, one of the MAID IV (backup) kits may be used (i.e., PIN 93877102, PIN 93877104).

Unused drugs are to be returned to the pharmacy for appropriate disposal.

For ODB-eligible persons

The claim submission follows the normal process for submitting claims on the HNS with the following additional information:

- Intervention code ‘PS’: (Professional Care Services)
- Product Identification Number (PIN): see Table 1 above for list of PINs
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- Professional Fee: Up to the Total Amount Reimbursed

Note: The Total Amount Reimbursed listed in Table 1 refers to the maximum amount for that MAID kit. Where appropriate, a lower total amount must be claimed in situations where a prescription does not require one (or more) of the drugs or components in a kit. The lower amount claimed is the acquisition cost of the drugs within the kit that are dispensed

For Non-ODB eligible persons

When submitting a claim for an eligible person who does not have ODB coverage, pharmacists and dispensing physicians must submit the following information:

- Patient Gender: ‘F’ = female; ‘M’ = male
- Patient Date of Birth: Valid YYYYMMDD
- Patient’s Ontario Health Card number
- Intervention codes:
 - PS: Professional Care Services
 - ML: Established eligibility coverage (i.e., 1 day of the Plan ‘S’ coverage)

Note for MAID IV kits (i.e., PIN 93877103 and PIN 93877104) by manual (paper) claims:

- PS: Professional Care Services
- ML: Established eligibility coverage (i.e., 1 day of the Plan ‘S’ coverage)
- MO: Valid Claim – value \$500 to \$999.99
- Carrier ID: ‘S’
- Product Identification Number (PIN): see Table 1 above for list of PINs
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- Professional Fee: Up to the Total Amount Reimbursed.

Note: The Total Amount Reimbursed listed in Table 1 refers to the maximum amount for that MAID kit. Where appropriate, a lower total amount must be claimed in situations where a prescription does not require one (or more) of the drugs or components in the kit. The lower amount claimed is the acquisition cost of the drugs within the kit that are dispensed

Restrictions

Only the drugs provided in the MAID kits will be reimbursed, as well as other components such as the syringes and tubes for IV MAID kits (according to Table 1).

Additional Information:**For pharmacy billing:**

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.