

## Frequently Asked Questions for Dispensers: Dispensing Publicly Funded Kits for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and Claims Submission using the Health Network System

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### Overview

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

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

Amendments to the *Criminal Code* came into force on June 17, 2016. This legislation establishes eligibility requirements for MAID and requires that certain safeguards be followed.

In addition, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), and the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) have each established MAID policies for their members.

Pharmacists and other dispensers must be familiar with the related guidelines provided by their respective professional colleges. The colleges' policies can be found on their respective websites:

- Ontario College of Pharmacists: [www.ocpinfo.com](http://www.ocpinfo.com)
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario: [www.cpso.on.ca](http://www.cpso.on.ca)
- College of Nurses of Ontario: [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org)

You can also access the ministry's website for more information: [www.ontario.ca/page/medical-assistance-dying-and-end-life-decisions](http://www.ontario.ca/page/medical-assistance-dying-and-end-life-decisions) or email at [endoflifedecisions@ontario.ca](mailto:endoflifedecisions@ontario.ca).

### 1. When are dispensers able to dispense MAID kits for Ontarians?

Accredited pharmacies and dispensing physicians with billing accounts for the HNS are now able to dispense kits for use in MAID and receive reimbursement..

**2. What are the publicly available MAID kits that are available to dispensers for reimbursement?**

**Table 1: PINs to support reimbursement of MAID kits**

<b>PIN</b>	<b>PIN Description</b>	<b>Contents in MAID Kit*</b>	<b>Total Amount Reimbursed</b>
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 Cisatracurium Besylate 2mg/mL Rocuronium Bromide	\$999.00

		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
93877106	MAID Self-Administration Kit (Phenobarbital)	Metoclopramide 10 mg Ondansetron 8 mg Phenobarbital 20 g Chloral Hydrate 20 g Morphine Sulfate 3 g Haloperidol 5mg/mL	\$250.00

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

Note that for MAID kits, a primary kit and a back-up kit are 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.

The PINs listed in the table are to be used by all Ontarians, regardless of eligibility under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program.

**3. What if I receive a MAID prescription for drugs that are not available in Canada?**

Some of the drugs used for assisted dying in other jurisdictions (i.e. the United States) are not marketed in Canada and not currently authorized for sale in Canada.

Prescribers should refer to their College for information about drug protocols and alternatives.

Health Canada's Special Access Programme (SAP) considers requests for access to drugs that are unavailable for sale in Canada from practitioners treating patients with serious or life-threatening conditions when conventional treatments have failed, are unsuitable or unavailable. The practitioner is responsible for initiating a request on behalf of a patient. However, at this time it is uncertain whether the drugs for MAID are accessible through the SAP. For more information, see [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/acces/drugs-droques/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/acces/drugs-droques/index-eng.php).

**4. If a patient changes their mind about proceeding with MAID, what happens to the unused MAID kits?**

As with any medication, drugs that are dispensed for the purpose of MAID that are unused or unneeded for any reason, should be returned to a pharmacy for safe and proper disposal.

**Eligibility**

**5. Are all Ontarians eligible for public funding of MAID drugs dispensed by pharmacies?**

Yes, all Ontarians are eligible, pursuant to a valid prescription and provided that the patient meets the specified eligibility criteria for MAID.

Federal legislation on MAID came into force on June 17, 2016. The legislation establishes eligibility requirements for MAID and requires that certain safeguards be followed.

Providers are encouraged to contact their respective regulatory college for more information and guidance.

**Ministry Payment**

**6. How is the claim paid by the ministry for a pharmacist to dispense a MAID kit to an eligible Ontarian?**

The payment is paid through the ministry's HNS to the accredited pharmacy or dispensing physician that has a billing account with the ministry.

**7. Can I submit manual (paper) claims for MAID kits?**

All claims must be submitted electronically through the HNS whenever possible. However, because claims for MAID IV kit PINs (i.e., PIN 93877103 and PIN 93877104) for non-ODB eligible patients, require three (3) intervention codes, these claims must be submitted using manual (paper) claim forms.

These claims must include the following intervention codes:

- 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

## **Pharmacy Participation**

### **8. Will all pharmacies participate in providing MAID drugs to Ontarians?**

All pharmacies with valid HNS agreements and connected to the HNS may submit claims for MAID drugs for reimbursement pursuant to a prescription.

Individual pharmacists who have a religious or conscientious objection to MAID are not obliged to prepare and dispense prescriptions for this purpose. Where a pharmacist has a religious or conscientious objection to assisting in MAID, he or she is required to comply with any policies or other professional expectations set out by the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP). For example, the OCP's Code of Ethics and Professional Obligations when Declining to Provide a Pharmacy Product or Service due to Conscience or Religion Guideline.

In circumstances where a pharmacist declines to assist in MAID on the basis of a religious or conscientious objection, he or she must provide the patient with an effective referral to a non-objecting alternate provider where the patient can receive the desired services in a timely manner.

### **9. What if there is a dispenser that chooses not to dispense the MAID drugs?**

Please refer to the applicable health regulatory college regarding questions on professional service and obligations.

## **Documentation and Record Keeping**

### **10. What is the pharmacist required to document when providing the MAID kit to eligible Ontarians?**

Standard dispensing record keeping requirements under current standards of practice apply. Pharmacists must keep records consistent with their obligations under the *Pharmacy Act, 1991*, the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act, 2010*, and any instructions provided by the Ontario College of Pharmacists or the ministry.

Please refer to the applicable professional colleges for guidance relating to documentation requirements.

**11. How long should the record be kept for billing purposes?**

For billing purposes, pharmacy documentation must be maintained in a readily available format for the purpose of the ministry audit for a minimum of 2 years.

**Claim for Payment through the HNS**

**12. When does the pharmacist submit the claim for the payment for dispensing the MAID kits?**

Pharmacists should submit the claim for payment through the HNS on the same day of the dispensing of the MAID kit.

**13. How are claims for MAID kits submitted through the HNS?**

HNS claims for a publicly funded MAID kit must contain the appropriate PIN of the kit that was dispensed to the patient or the patient's designated person.

Pharmacists must ensure that the patient's correct date of birth, health card number and name (as it appears on the Health Card) are entered accurately as part of the HNS claims submission. Failure to do so may impact the ability to submit future claims for these patients.

**14. What is the procedure to submit the claim to the HNS for a publicly funded MAID kit for an ODB patient?**

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 above for the list of PINs
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- Professional Fee: The actual acquisition cost of the MAID kit

**15. What is the procedure to submit the claim to the HNS for a publicly funded MAID kit for a non-ODB patient?**

When submitting a claim for a person who does not have ODB coverage, pharmacists 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)
- Carrier ID: ‘S’
- Product Identification Number (PIN): see table above for the list of PINs
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- Professional Fee: The actual acquisition cost of the MAID kit

**16. Do I need to submit a paper claim for a publically funded MAID IV kit for a non-ODB patient?**

Yes. The MAID IV kit PINs (i.e., PIN 93877103 and PIN 93877104) for non-ODB eligible patients must be submitted using manual (paper) claims because these claims require three (3) intervention codes, and cannot be submitted electronically. See question 7.

**17. I have questions about the dispensing of the MAID kits. Who do I contact?**

Pharmacists should work with prescribers and patients to determine the appropriate MAID drug regimen for individual cases.

Please refer to the applicable health regulatory college regarding questions about protocols for MAID, including contents, preparation and dispensing of the MAID kit.

Pharmacists should refer to the OCP’s website: [www.ocpinfo.com/regulations-standards/policies-guidelines/assisted-death](http://www.ocpinfo.com/regulations-standards/policies-guidelines/assisted-death)

**18. Do I need to submit these PINs to the Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS)?**

Yes. Do not use the Drug Identification Numbers (DINs) of the individual drugs in each kit. The MAID PIN must be used to submit to NMS. See the table above for the list of PINs.

**Restrictions**

**19. What are the restrictions for MAID kits?**

Only the drugs provided in the MAID kits will be reimbursed. See the table above for the “Maximum Reimbursed Amount” for each kit.

**20. I work in a hospital in-patient pharmacy, can I submit claims for reimbursement?**

No. The cost of MAID kits dispensed from hospital in-patient pharmacies will be covered through the hospital’s budget.

**Additional Questions**

**21. I am having trouble putting the claim through. Who should I contact?**

If pharmacies have any questions or concerns related to billing issues, please contact the ODB Help Desk at 1-800-668-6641.