

## Ontario Drug Benefit Act Proposed Regulatory Amendments to Support the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (OBIP) Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What regulatory changes are proposed?

The proposed amendment to Ontario Regulation 201/96 (made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*) would create a new class of eligible recipients under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program. Specifically, the proposed amendment would prescribe persons who were entitled to receive drug benefits under the *Ontario Works Act, 1997* or the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997* immediately prior to receiving Basic Income payments under the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (OBIP) as a class of eligible persons for the purpose of the ODB Program. The proposed amendment, if approved, would be retroactive to **July 1, 2017** to align with when the OBIP was first launched.

### 2. What is the change meant to achieve?

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's ODB Program provides drug benefits to various classes of eligible persons, including persons entitled to receive drug benefits under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997* (ODSPA) and the *Ontario Works Act, 1997* (OWA). In order to receive Basic Income payments, OBIP participants must withdraw from social assistance (i.e. Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program). As a result, OBIP participants who were previously eligible to receive drug benefits through the ODB Program because they received social assistance would no longer qualify for ODB coverage on this basis. To ensure that these individuals do not lose their drug benefits during their participation in the OBIP, the ministry is proposing the change to specify that these individuals continue to be entitled to receive drug benefits as eligible persons under the ODBA so long as they are in receipt of Basic Income payments.

### 3. What is the OBIP?

OBIP is a program offered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) that will test whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers, improve health and education outcomes for people with low incomes, and help ensure that everyone shares in Ontario's economic growth. The pilot is enrolling participants aged 18 to 64 (up to 4000 at full

implementation) in three pilot locations (Hamilton, Brantford, Brant County; Thunder Bay and the surrounding area; and Lindsay) for three years.

**4. What is the impact of the change on recipients' ODB drug coverage?**

The proposed change would continue ODB drug coverage for individuals who were entitled to receive drug benefits under the OWA or the ODSPA immediately before receiving Basic Income payments under the OBIP.

**5. What is the impact of the change on businesses?**

There is expected to be no negative impact on businesses. In fact, the proposed amendment would eliminate an interim measure that has required pharmacies to ask OBIP recipients to present a paper drug benefit eligibility card and enter an override code in order to submit a claim for a dispensed, prescribed, ODB-funded medication. Following the regulation change, if approved, OBIP recipients will be able to use their Ontario Health card number instead. OBIP recipients who do not have an Ontario Health card will continue to use their paper drug benefit eligibility cards.

**Additional Information:**

**For pharmacies:**

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