

Frequently Asked Questions: Removal of the 30-days' Supply Dispensing Limit Recommendation

1. What does this change mean for dispensers?

Starting **June 15, 2020**, the dispensing recommendations communicated on March 20th to lessen the risk of drug shortages have ended. Pharmacists and dispensing physicians may dispense medications in accordance with pre-COVID-19 dispensing policies (i.e., maximum 100-days' supply if the prescription allows). ODB recipient co-payments will also return to their previous amounts (e.g. \$2 or \$6.11, in most cases).

As the claims for the Co-Payment Reimbursement PINs can be submitted up to seven (7) days from when the corresponding reduced quantity drug claim was dispensed, the PINs will be deactivated on June 22, 2020. Dispensers are reminded to submit all claims for the co-payment portion of an eligible claim with the [corresponding PIN](#) for each instalment of a prescription dispensed in a reduced quantity prior to June 15, 2020 due to the ministry's supply limit recommendation **before end of day on June 21, 2020**.

Dispensers will also be subject to the same dispensing fee rules for the ODB program as before the dispensing supply limit recommendation was in place. For more information, please visit:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/odbf_conditions_for_payment.aspx

2. I thought the dispensing limit recommendation and co-payment reimbursement were supposed to end on June 30, 2020. Why is the recommendation being lifted early?

The amendments to Ontario Regulation 201/96 to reduce the co-payments to \$0 for prescriptions for more than a 30-day supply dispensed in instalments due to the Ministry's supply limit recommendation apply until the ministry's supply limit recommendation ends or June 30, 2020, whichever occurs first.

Information currently available indicates that the national drug supply has stabilized for many medications and continues to improve for the medications that are still experiencing shortages. As such, the ministry has decided to remove the 30-days' supply dispensing limit recommendation earlier than June 30th. Most other provinces have already removed this restriction. The ministry will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action, if necessary, to help mitigate disruptions in the supply chain.

3. What does this change mean for ODB recipients?

Starting **June 15, 2020**, most ODB recipients should be able to receive their regular supply of medications as they did before the supply limit recommendation took effect. ODB recipients will also be responsible for the co-payment portion (i.e., \$2.00 or \$6.11 in most cases) of the prescription cost as before, if applicable.

Prescriptions should not be refilled early, and patients and pharmacies are encouraged to not buy more medication than required to ensure all patients continue to have access to medications they need and help prevent future drug shortages.

4. As a dispenser, what should I do if I notice there is a shortage of a drug I am dispensing?

Although the drug supply chain has been stabilized for many medications due to the dispensing limit recommendations that took place across Canada over the past several months, some drug shortages may still exist.

Dispensers are responsible for managing their inventory appropriately and should always use their professional judgement to determine appropriate quantities when dispensing drugs that may be at risk of shortages.

Dispensers are reminded that dispensing a lower quantity of a drug product than is prescribed or payable under the ODB program could impact whether the dispenser is entitled to a dispensing fee. For more information, please visit:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/odbf_conditions_for_payment.aspx

5. Due to the 30-days' supply dispensing limit recommendation, some of my patients have already reached their 5 dispensing fees per 365-days limit. How do I receive reimbursement for the dispensing fee when I am now dispensing the regular 3-month supply of their chronic medications?

Prescriptions that were dispensed in instalments because of the ministry's recommendation may have already reached or may soon be reaching the limit of 5 dispensing fees per 365-day period that is enforced through the Health Network System (HNS). During the time period when the ministry's 30-days' supply limit recommendation was in place, chronic-use medications were not subject to the five dispensing fees per 365-days rule, even though the HNS counted the dispensing events as contributing to the five fees per 365-days rule. If you dispensed medications for a reduced quantity of 30-days due to the supply limit recommendation prior to June 15, 2020 and a patient has reached the "5 fees / 365 days rule for chronic medications", you can override the response code "87 – Exceeds maximum

of professional fees for this drug” with the intervention code “**UN – Assessed patient. Therapy is appropriate**”. Proper documentation with the reason for use of the intervention code is required (e.g., reached 5 fee limit early due to COVID-19 supply restriction). Note that documentation related to the use of the “UN” intervention code related to the COVID-19 dispensing limits will only be accepted until June 15, 2021.

Please note that other uses of the “UN” intervention code continue to be subject to the rules respecting [Chronic-Use Medications](#).