

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

**Effective April 1, 2022**

This is an update and replaces the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) dated August 10, 2016, for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID).

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

### **1. What is the latest update to MAID in Ontario?**

As of April 1, 2022, the ministry will fund a new oral protocol for MAID self-administration. This new oral protocol uses the drug secobarbital in a self-administration MAID kit and replaces the MAID kit that uses phenobarbital.

For further information on this drug regimen, as well as others used for MAID, health care providers (including pharmacists) should refer to their regulatory college for guidance regarding the drug protocols for the provision of MAID.

### **2. Why was this change made by the ministry?**

The ministry made this change based on consultation and feedback from MAID clinicians and stakeholder groups.

For further information on the Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers (CAMAP), please refer to their website at: <https://camapcanada.ca/>

### **3. Which dispensers are able to dispense MAID kits for Ontarians?**

Accredited pharmacies and dispensing physicians<sup>1</sup> with billing accounts for the HNS can dispense kits for use in MAID and receive reimbursement.

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

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 Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB)-eligible and non-ODB eligible persons for the purposes of billing the value of the kits.

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

PIN	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 Cisatracurium Besylate 2mg/mL	\$999.00

<sup>1</sup> 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.

PIN	PIN Description	Contents in MAID Kit*	Total Amount Reimbursed
		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
<b>93877110 (New)</b>	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 size and brand of the product from the applicable guidelines and protocols.

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.

The PINs listed in the table are to be used for both ODB-eligible and non-ODB eligible persons for the purposes of billing the value of the kits.

**5. Are there other protocols for MAID that are funded in addition to the ones listed in the Table 1 in Question 4 above?**

No. Only the MAID kits listed in the Table 1 of Question 4 are publicly funded in Ontario at this time when supplied by pharmacies and dispensing physicians.

**6. 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**

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

Yes, all OHIP-insured persons are eligible, pursuant to a valid prescription and provided that the patient meets the specified eligibility criteria for MAID under federal law.

Providers are encouraged to contact their respective regulatory college for more information and guidance about individual's eligibility for MAID.

### **Ministry Payment**

**8. How is the claim paid by the ministry for a dispenser (i.e., pharmacist, dispensing physician) 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.

**9. 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 persons 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**

**10. Will all pharmacies participate in providing MAID drugs to eligible persons?**

All pharmacies with valid HNS subscription agreements and that are connected to the HNS may submit claims for MAID drugs for reimbursement pursuant to a prescription for an eligible person.

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, they are 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, they must provide the patient with an effective referral to a non-objecting alternate provider where the eligible person can receive the desired services in a timely manner.

**11. 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****12. What is the pharmacist required to document when providing the MAID kit to eligible persons?**

Standard dispensing record keeping requirements under current standards of practice apply. Pharmacists and dispensing physicians must 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*, the Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual, their HNS Subscription Agreement, and any instructions provided by the Ontario College of Pharmacists, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or the ministry.

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

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

For billing purposes, documentation must be maintained in a readily available format for the purpose of the 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.

**Claim for Payment through the HNS**

**14. When does the pharmacist or dispensing physician submit the claim for the payment for dispensing the MAID kits?**

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

**15. 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 for the eligible person.

Pharmacists and dispensing physicians must ensure that the eligible person’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.

**16. What is the procedure to submit the claim to the HNS for a publicly funded MAID kit for an ODB-eligible person?**

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 the list of PINs
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- Professional Fee: Up to the Total Amount Reimbursed

*Note:* The Total Amount Reimbursed listed in Table 1 in Question 4 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

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

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

*Note:* The Total Amount Reimbursed listed in Table 1 in Question 4 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.

**18. Do I need to submit a paper claim for a publicly funded MAID IV kit for a non-ODB eligible person?**

Yes. The MAID IV kit PINs (i.e., PIN 93877103 and PIN 93877104) for non-ODB eligible persons must be submitted using manual (paper) claims because these claims require three (3) intervention codes, and cannot be submitted electronically. See question 9.

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

Pharmacists and dispensing physicians should work with prescribers and eligible persons 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)

**20. 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 the claim to the NMS. See Table 1 in Question 4 above for the list of PINs.

**Restrictions****21. What are the restrictions for MAID kits?**

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 in Question 4).

The Total Amount Reimbursed listed in Table 1 in Question 4 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. The lower amount claimed is the acquisition cost of the drugs within the kit that are dispensed

**22. 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****23. 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.