

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Ontario Public Drug Programs

Office of the Executive Officer and
Assistant Deputy Minister

Hepburn Block, 9th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3
Tel.: 416-327-0902
Fax.: 416-325-6647

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

Programmes publics de médicaments
de l'Ontario

Bureau de l'administratrice en chef et
sous-ministre adjointe

Édifice Hepburn, 9^e étage
80, rue Grosvenor
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3
Tél. : 416 327-0902
Téléc. : 416 325-6647



February 17, 2012

Dear Prescribers:

RE: Important Notice Regarding Change in Funding Status of Oxycodone Controlled Release Tablet – (Discontinuation of OxyContin and Introduction of OxyNEO)

As you may be aware, effective March 1, 2012 Purdue Pharma is withdrawing its current formulation of oxycodone controlled release tablet, OxyContin, and introducing OxyNEO.

I am writing to inform you of the changes that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) will implement as a result of the introduction of OxyNEO. These changes are based on extensive discussions with practicing pain specialists, addiction experts and other health care providers, and are designed to balance appropriate use, patient care and the growing problem of opioid addiction in Ontario.

Effective February 29, 2012, the ministry will remove OxyContin from the [Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/Comparative Drug Index](#) (ODB Formulary). **OxyNEO will be funded through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) and through the Facilitated Access to Palliative Care Drugs** mechanism. There will also be a one-year transition period for patients currently receiving OxyContin. Details are provided below.

- **Existing ODB recipients of OxyContin:**

Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) recipients who have had a claim submitted to the ODB program for OxyContin between September 1, 2011 and February 28, 2012, will receive automatic coverage for OxyContin for another month. All coverage for OxyContin will cease on April 2, 2012. In addition, these patients will receive automatic coverage for OxyNEO (10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg and 80mg) for a period of one year (February 29, 2012 to February 28, 2013).

If coverage for OxyNEO is required beyond February 28, 2013, an EAP approval will be required. *(Please see EAP criteria for OxyNEO below.)*

Prescribers are asked to note that the current turnaround time for EAP requests is approximately three months. For patients for whom OxyNEO continues to be an appropriate therapy, it is recommended that prescribers submit EAP requests to the

ministry at least three months in advance of February 28, 2013. The ministry will send out reminder notices throughout the year.

- **All other ODB patients requiring OxyNEO:**

For all other ODB patients requiring oxycodone controlled release tablet starting February 29, 2012, OxyNEO will be funded as follows:

- a. Exceptional Access Program (EAP)**

OxyNEO 10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg and 40 mg tablets will be considered through the EAP for patients with chronic pain according to the following criteria:

New Patients

- For the treatment of chronic pain in patients who have experienced intolerance or have failed an adequate trial (for example, three months) of at least one other listed long-acting opioid product.

Note: Physicians should consider best practice guidelines for the safe and effective use of opioids in chronic non-cancer pain, such as the Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain (available at: www.nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid/).

*The diagnosis for which the pain management is required must be documented;
All concomitant pain medication therapy must be documented;
Other medications with potential for abuse or interaction with opioid therapy should be documented.*

Renewals

- Treatment continues to be appropriate for the management of the patient's chronic pain.
*All concomitant pain medication therapy must be documented;
Other medications with potential for abuse or interaction with opioid therapy should be documented.*

Note: OxyNEO 60mg and 80mg tablets are not funded.

Approval period: one year (new and renewals)

b. Facilitated Access to Palliative Care Drug Products (Part VI-b of the ODB Formulary)

OxyNEO 10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg and 80mg tablets for cancer patients or palliative care patients for whom the prescriber is registered on the Palliative Care Facilitated Access List will be funded with the following criteria:

- For the treatment of cancer-related pain, or pain in patients receiving end-of-life palliative care; AND
- The patient has experienced intolerance or has failed an adequate trial (for example, three months) of at least one other listed long-acting opioid product.

Note: For reimbursement of OxyNEO via the Facilitated Access mechanism, prescribers must be registered on the Palliative Care Facilitated Access List. To facilitate the reimbursement process at the pharmacy, the prescriber is asked to indicate “Cancer”, “Palliative” or “P.C.F.A.”, on the prescription to signify that the patient meets the above-noted eligibility criteria. This would be an indication to the pharmacist that these medications may be reimbursed under this mechanism.

Note: If the prescriber is not registered on the Palliative Care Facilitated Access List, a request for funding of OxyNEO must be made through the EAP process based on the EAP criteria noted above.

Note: OxyNEO 60mg tablets are not funded.

Approval period: one year

Additional information on the Facilitated Access Mechanism can be found on Part VI of the ODB Formulary.

Additional information is provided in the attached questions and answers. Prescribers may also wish to refer to the Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain for further information on prescribing opioids in a safe and effective manner, available at: www.nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid

We thank you in advance for your attention to the above matter. If you require further clarification regarding this matter, please send your question(s) to PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Diane McArthur
Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Officer

Enclosed – Questions and Answers relating to OxyNEO