

INFOBulletin

Keeping health care providers informed of payment, policy or program changes

To: Prescribers with the Authority to Prescribe Controlled Substances

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Bulletin #: 4687

Re: Reminder regarding delisting of high-strength long-acting opioids under the Ontario Drug Benefit program

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This is a reminder that was communicated in [INFOBulletin # 4675](#), and subsequently [INFOBulletin #4682](#), the following products will be delisted from the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary/Comparative Drug Index effective with the **January 2017 ODB Formulary update**:

- Higher strengths of long-acting opioids, including:
 - Morphine 200 mg tablets;
 - Hydromorphone 24 mg and 30 mg capsules;
 - Fentanyl 75 mcg/hr and 100 mcg/hr patches; and
- Meperidine 50 mg tablets.

The January 2017 ODB Formulary update will take effect Tuesday January 31, 2017.

Prescribers are reminded that lower-strength, long-acting opioids will continue to be funded under the ODB program. Therefore, patients who may need higher doses of long-acting opioids for adequate pain management may continue to be prescribed lower-strength formulations. There are no daily dose limits being enforced at this time. It is important that healthcare providers assess patients individually and make changes to therapy in a measured manner with appropriate support and monitoring.

Prescribers are reminded that access to high-strength long-acting opioids will be maintained for patients requiring palliative care through the ODB program's:

1. **Palliative Care Facilitated Access (PCFA)** mechanism, for physicians who are registered PCFA prescribers through the Ontario Medical Association; and
2. **Exceptional Access Program (EAP) Telephone Request Service (TRS)** for physicians who are not PCFA prescribers according to specific criteria.

For further details, please consult [INFOBulletin #4682](#), posted at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ohip/bulletins/4000/bul4682.aspx>

Questions?

Please contact PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca

or call the ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559

In Toronto, TTY at 416-327-4282.

Additional Resources

Interested physicians should consult the below resources on how to transition and/or taper patients:

- 2010 Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain, available at: <http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid/documents.html>
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's (CPSO) Dialogue Magazine Volume 12, Issue 3, 2016, available at: <http://www.cpso.on.ca/Policies-Publications/Publications/Dialogue-Magazine-Archives/Volume-12,-Issue-3,-2016>