

INFOBulletin

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

To: Registered Nurse with Extended Class

Published by: Strategy Execution Branch, Ontario Public Drug Programs,
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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Re: OHIP+ and Medications for Children and Youth

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As a result of OHIP+, starting January 1, 2018, all children and youth aged 24 and under who are OHIP insured will automatically be covered under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program.

OHIP+ will ensure that eligible children and youth have no out of pocket costs for all benefits currently covered through the ODB program. This includes over 4,400 drug products listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index and additional medications eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP).

Children and youth often have very different medical treatment and drug therapy needs from adults. The ministry is working with clinicians and specialty groups who oversee the medical care of children and youth to ensure there is a smooth transition to OHIP+ on January 1, 2018.

How To Get Ready

Prescribers that specialize in treating children or provide care to children and/or youth are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the kinds of drugs and drug products covered on the ODB Formulary to help patients access medications that are appropriate and covered on January 1, 2018. You can search the Formulary at:

www.formulary.health.gov.on.ca/formulary/



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Exceptional Access Program and OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

The EAP facilitates publicly funded access for ODB recipients (including all Ontarians age 24 and under who qualify for OHIP+ starting January 1, 2018) in exceptional circumstances to:

- Drugs not listed on the ODB Formulary;
- Drugs listed on the ODB Formulary but not for the patient's indication; or
- Where ODB Formulary drugs were ineffective, not tolerated or where no listed alternative was available.

To receive coverage for an EAP drug, a funding request must be submitted by the patient's prescriber with specific information on the patient's medical circumstance to support funding of the particular drug. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and categorized by priority – taking into consideration how quickly a drug is needed, the type of drug, and the condition for which the drug is being used. If the request is approved, the child or youth will be fully covered for the cost of the medication.

The ministry is planning a streamlined EAP request process for OHIP+ eligible patients who are currently stable on a medication for a chronic condition (whether previously paying out-of-pocket or through private insurance). The ministry will confirm details regarding this process in the next few weeks.

In order to ensure seamless coverage on January 1, 2018, the ministry is encouraging prescribers to submit EAP requests for eligible patients as soon as possible. Please feel free to fax full EAP requests to:

1-844-227-6590.

EAP request forms can be found at:

health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/eap_mn.aspx#3

Additional information on Ontario's Exceptional Access Program can be found at:

health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/eap_mn.aspx