

January 16, 2018

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Hospitals - Emergency Rooms, Walk-In Clinics

RE: OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

Starting January 1, 2018, Ontario launched OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare – providing universal drug coverage to all children and youth, aged 24 and under, across the province. It will completely cover the cost of all medicines funded through the ODB (Ontario Drug Benefit) program. There will be no deductible and no co-payment.

What is covered?

- All products available to an ODB recipient at no cost.
- More than 4,400 drug products listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug index, including medications and diabetes test strips.
- The Formulary can be found at: www.formulary.health.gov.on.ca/formulary/
- Drugs eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) require a clinician initiated request which must indicate that the patient meets the clinical criteria.

How does someone receive coverage?

- Enrollment in the program will be automatic for children and youth, 24 and under, with OHIP eligibility
- There will be no application necessary to join the program.
- When an eligible individual seeks to fill a prescription for any drug product listed on the ODB Formulary, at any pharmacy, they would only need their health card number and a valid prescription to receive coverage.

Does OHIP+ cover Birth Control and STI treatments?

- Yes, all prescribed medications, including birth control medications, apart from EVRA, and antibiotics used to treat STIs will be covered.
- EVRA can be ordered through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP).

How does this affect current practice in Public Health Units Sexual Health Clinics?

- Prescriptions will be given to those who are 24 and under and they will be able to pick up their prescribed medications from any pharmacy in Ontario.
- Public Health will still provide low cost birth control to those 25 and older and to those without OHIP coverage.
- STI treatment will continue to be publicly funded and free of charge from the Health Unit

What are the steps for accessing the Exceptional Access Program?

- An individual's prescriber must submit a request on behalf of their patient to the EAP, stipulating how they meet the reimbursement criteria. Ministry pharmacists, who specialize in EAP, review each request and some requests are sent out for medical expert review. Current turnaround times range from under one week to 6 weeks based on the priority of the request.
- EAP request forms can be found at: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/eap_mn.aspx#3
- Additional information on Ontario's EAP can be found at:
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/eap_mn.aspx
- OHIP+ information for Professionals: <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/ohiplus/>
- A List of frequently requested drugs and their reimbursement criteria is available at
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/docs/frequently_requested_drugs.pdf

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Shawn Woods, Manager, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1290.

NOTE: For easier access to the above web links, visit the Health Unit website (www.hkpr.on.ca) for electronic copies of all current – and previous – editions of *FAX Facts*. Go to the 'Resources & Forms' header at the top of the web page, and use the drop-down menu to click on the 'Health Care Professionals' section (a link to FAX Facts is posted there). A direct link is also provided below:

www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/FAXFacts.aspx

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