



Ministry of Health
Ministry of Long-Term Care

ONTARIO DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM (ODB)

WHAT IS IT

Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program covers most of the cost of prescriptions drug products listed in the Formulary.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Individuals who meet any ONE of the following criteria:

- **65 years old**
- living in a
 - long-term care home
 - home for special care
 - Community Home for Opportunity
- 24 years of age or younger and not covered by a private insurance plan
- receiving professional home and community care services
- receiving benefits from Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program
- enrolled in the [Trillium Drug Program](#) (for those not described above, who do not have a private insurance plan that covers 100% of their drugs and who spend about 4% or more of their after-tax household income on prescriptions drugs)

WHAT'S COVERED?

- approximately 5,000 prescription drug products, some prescribed over-the-counter drugs
- Exceptional Access Program (EAP) (requests made for coverage of drug products not listed in the Formulary)
- It also helps pay for:
 - allergy shots and epinephrine injectable products (used in response to severe allergic reaction)
 - some products used in monitoring and testing for diabetes
 - some prescribed over-the-counter drugs under specific circumstances (for example, Ibuprofen 200mg, Ferrous sulphate 300)
 - some nutrition products
 - some drugs used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS
 - some drugs used in palliative care
 - help to quit smoking:
 - up to a year of pharmacist-assisted counselling (talk to your pharmacist or health care provider)
 - drugs for treatment if you are age 18 years or older

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE ONTARIO DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM

- Seniors are automatically enrolled effective the first month after their 65th birthday; the government should send a letter approximately 3 months prior
- Children 24 years-of-age or under are automatically enrolled provided they are not covered by a private plan
- Those living in long-term care homes, homes for special care or community homes are automatically covered
- Those receiving **ODSP** or **OW** are automatically covered
- Application for the **Trillium Drug Program** must be completed by September 30th each year
 - The application form is available online at [TRILLIUMAPPLICATION](#)
 - You can also call 1-800-575-5386 or 1-800-387-5559 (TTY)
 - Once you are enrolled, you will receive a confirmation letter telling you what your deductible is for the year.
 - Your household's enrollment **will be renewed automatically every year** and you will receive an annual confirmation letter.

WHAT DO I PAY?

Co-payments and/or deductibles apply for most categories of recipients. These amounts are generally based on income. The benefit year runs from August 1 thru July 31.

Detailed descriptions of deductibles and co-payments can be found on the ODB website at:

[ODBCOPAYS](#)

There are NO deductibles and a \$2 co-pay per prescription for:

- Single seniors with income <=\$22,200
- Senior couples with combined income <=\$37,100
- Individuals living in LT care, special care and community homes
- Individuals receiving ODSP and OW

Exceptional Access Program

May assist in paying for a drug that's not currently covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB).

As a first step to getting this help, you and your doctor or nurse practitioner can do a search to make sure the drug you need is covered through the Exceptional Access Program.

Your doctor or nurse practitioner fills out and submits the application for you. Only a doctor or nurse practitioner can apply for coverage through the Exceptional Access Program or Compassionate Review Policy.

There is no deadline for these applications.

Applications are considered according to:

- the type of drug needed
- the severity or rarity of the illness or medical condition