

Executive Officer Notice: Updated Income Eligibility Thresholds for the Seniors Co-Payment Program under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

May 9, 2024

The income eligibility thresholds for the [Seniors Co-Payment Program \(SCP\)](#), under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program are being updated from \$22,200 to \$25,000 (for single seniors¹) and \$37,100 to \$41,500 (for senior couples²) effective August 1, 2024.

These updates ensure that the SCP income eligibility thresholds better reflect cost-of-living increases in Ontario and continue to be in line with increases to income supports for seniors.

On the first day of the month after they turn 65 years of age, all OHIP-insured Ontarians are automatically enrolled in the ODB program, which covers most of the costs of more than 5,000 prescription drug products. Generally, seniors pay the first \$100 of their prescription drug costs each year (annual deductible) before they are eligible for drug coverage.³ After the deductible is paid, seniors then pay up to \$6.11 toward the dispensing fee for every prescription (a co-payment). The SCP is an application-based program under the ODB for seniors with incomes less than certain income eligibility thresholds. Seniors enrolled in the SCP pay no annual deductible and a reduced co-payment of \$2 per each prescription, improving access to essential drugs.

Ontarians who are currently 65 years of age or older, or turning 65 on or after July 1, 2024, and who meet the new income eligibility thresholds, are encouraged to apply to the SCP starting in May 2024 in advance of the start of the upcoming Benefit Year (August 1, 2024). This will ensure that those who qualify for the SCP will benefit from the elimination of the annual deductible and a reduction in their co-payments beginning August 1, 2024, and minimize the chance of out-of-pocket expenses.

¹ A “single senior” includes a senior who is no longer cohabiting with a spouse for certain reasons.

² A “senior couple” means a senior who cohabits with a spouse.

³ For the first year of ODB program eligibility as a senior, depending on when the senior turns 65, the deductible may be lower than \$100.

To avoid unnecessary delays and ensure timely processing, applicants can complete the Seniors Co-Payment Program Application available on the [Ontario Drug Benefit Program Online Applications and Forms website](https://forms.ontariodrugbenefit.ca/) at: <https://forms.ontariodrugbenefit.ca/>.

The online form will guide them through the application process to ensure all the information required for enrolment is provided before submission.

A paper copy of the SCP form and guide can also be requested over the phone by calling toll free 1-888-405-0405 or 416-503-4586 in the Toronto area, or by emailing seniors@ontariodrugbenefit.ca.

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, we have also included a Questions and Answers document that can be found under the 2024 section at the following link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-drug-programs-executive-officer-communications>

A regulation to amend Ontario Regulation 201/96 under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* to reflect the new thresholds has been made. The new thresholds will take effect on August 1, 2024. For the authoritative text of the regulation, please visit the e-Laws website at: <http://www.ontario.ca/laws>

Additional information:

For pharmacies:

If you have any questions, please contact the ODB Help Desk at 1-800-668-6641.

For all other health care providers and the public:

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.