Executive Officer Notice - Providing Support for Persons with an Emergency Authorization for Humanitarian Reasons under Ontario Public Drug Programs

Effective April 6, 2022

Ontario is responding to the crisis in Ukraine by ensuring that individuals and families seeking safety in Ontario from the conflict have the services and supports they need.

Persons who have been granted an emergency authorization to enter into and remain in Canada for humanitarian reasons, including those in Ontario under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET), ("persons with an emergency authorization for humanitarian reasons") are eligible to receive Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage. Eligibility continues for the duration of that authorization or any subsequent authorizations issued for the same purpose. For further information, please visit https://www.ontario.ca/page/coming-ontario-ukraine.

In addition, persons with an emergency authorization for humanitarian reasons may be eligible to receive drug coverage through the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program as outlined below in descending order of applicability.

- Persons aged 24 years and younger who have OHIP coverage and no private plan are eligible for the ODB program through the OHIP+ stream, with no co-payment. Pharmacies should submit claims for these individuals as per the current process for OHIP+ (see Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual ("Reference Manual")).

- Persons with or without OHIP coverage who do not fall under the above OHIP+ stream and who receive a drug card from an Ontario Works office administrator under the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services' emergency assistance program are eligible for the ODB Program through the social assistance stream. Such persons have a $2 co-payment (if aged 25 years and older) or no co-

payment (if aged 24 years and younger). Pharmacies should submit claims for these individuals in accordance with the instructions below.

- Persons who have OHIP coverage but do <u>not</u> fall under either of the above streams (i.e., OHIP+ or social assistance) may be eligible for the ODB Program through regular eligibility streams (e.g., seniors, home care recipient, resident of long-term care home, home for special care or community home for opportunity, or enrolled in Trillium Drug Program). Such persons will have a co-payment of $0, $2 or $6.11 and may have a deductible, depending on their eligibility stream. Pharmacies should submit claims for these individuals as per the current process for the applicable eligibility stream (see Reference Manual).

<u>Claim Submission Instructions for Social Assistance Stream</u>

With respect to claims for persons with an emergency authorization for humanitarian reasons and who receive a drug card from an Ontario Works office administrator, the following process must be used to establish each person's eligibility under the ODB Program. Please refer to Section 4.2 Policy for Establishing Payment Eligibility in the Reference Manual for further details:

- Person will confirm eligibility by presenting a paper Drug Benefit Eligibility Card*
- Pharmacy will process the claim through the Health Network System by entering:
  - o "D" Carrier ID/Plan Code
  - o Date of Birth
  - o Gender
  - o "ML" intervention code (standard override)
  - o Pharmacist ID

*Eligibility cannot be confirmed through the SAV portal or SAV helpline.

Note 1: If the intervention code "ML" does not change the response code, please use the intervention code "MK" (emergency override) to establish eligibility for one day only (i.e., the date of service).

Note 2: When the "ML" or "MK" intervention code is used to establish coverage, the Health Network System will indicate that a $2 co-payment may be charged, but if the ODB Program recipient who is eligible under the social assistance stream is 24 years of age or younger, the pharmacy must not charge a co-payment in respect of supplying an ODB-funded product for the eligible person.

Documentation Requirements:

For claim validation purposes, pharmacies are required to maintain supporting documentation that verifies a person's eligibility for the Retention Period defined in the Reference Manual. The supporting documentation that must be obtained and maintained is specific to the type of eligible person. For example, for persons with an emergency authorization for humanitarian reasons who are eligible for the ODB Program through the social assistance stream, a copy of their Drug Benefit Eligibility Card must be retained.

For pharmacies:

Please call ODB Pharmacy 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