

Notice: Amendments to Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* to Extend the Reconciliation Adjustment to Pharmacy Payments

Effective April 1, 2023

The Ontario government has made amendments to Ontario Regulation 201/96 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* to extend, on a time-limited basis, the reconciliation adjustment to pharmacy payments.

The purpose of this time-limited extension is to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, and that cooperation on necessary sector innovations and improvements are advanced. This extension is in parallel with recently implemented expansions to pharmacy scope of practice, including new abilities for pharmacists to prescribe medication for common ailments.

No changes have been made to the method of calculating the reconciliation adjustment. The reconciliation adjustment continues to reduce an amount from the biweekly payments made to pharmacies under the ODB program. The amount reduced is a percentage of the sum of the dispensing fee and mark-up paid to pharmacies based on the cost of the drug dispensed, as follows:

- Up to 16% for drug costs equal to or over \$1,000; and
- Up to 4% for drug costs under \$1,000.

The reconciliation adjustment also applies to non-drug therapeutic substances listed on the ODB Formulary (e.g., nutritional products, blood glucose test strips and valved holding chambers). The amount deducted will be a percentage of the dispensing fee paid for the listed substance.

The reconciliation percentages listed above are maximums that are allowed under the regulation. The reconciliation adjustment does not apply to professional services, compounding fees, drug costs, co-payments, or payments for pharmacy services provided to long-term care home residents.

The time-limited extension of the reconciliation adjustment will be effective as of April 1, 2023 and will end on the date specified in the regulation.

Additional Information:

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