

Summary of Requirements to Qualify For Prescription Reimbursement In Ontario

	Special Conditions	Paperwork
<i>1. Ontario Drug Benefit (via standard criteria/Trillium program):</i>		
a) ODB Formulary	None	None
b) Limited Use	Indication must match one(s) listed in ODB formulary	Limited Use prescription form to pharmacy; include LU code, CPSO #.
c) Facilitated Access	MD must be registered with Ministry of Health	CPSO # on prescription
d) Limited Use Facilitated Access	CD ₄ <500, on other anti-retrovirals, MD registered with Ministry of Health	Limited Use prescription form to pharmacy; include LU code, CPSO #.
e) Section 8	Must demonstrate need for treatment with specific agent (e.g., indicate diagnosis, previous/concurrent therapies, etc.)	Individual request (written) to Ministry of Health
<i>2. Other:</i>		
a) Antiretrovirals	Patient needs valid Ontario Health Card #. Specific criteria (e.g., CD ₄ count, concomitant antiretroviral therapy) may exist for certain agents. Pick up medication at designated hospital-affiliated pharmacies.	Register with Ontario Drug Distribution/Monitoring Program (ODDMP).
b) Anti-TB drugs	1st line agents via Ont. Department of Health. Pick up 2nd line medications at designated pharmacies.	Write “for resistant TB requiring second line drugs” on standard prescription.

PRESCRIPTION REIMBURSEMENT PLANS IN ONTARIO

In Ontario, coverage for drugs commonly prescribed in HIV/AIDS may often be obtained via various routes. Please note that eligibility criteria may vary depending upon the individual patient, the program, and the prescribed drug.

Ontario Drug Benefit Program (ODB): Ontario residents with a current and active drug card may have non-investigational medications covered via one of the following categories:

- a) ODB Formulary*: Agents listed in the ODB formulary may be prescribed by any physician, without specifying the indication.
- b) Facilitated Access*: ODB patients may receive these agents free of charge as long as the prescribing physician is registered with the Ministry of Health as a participating physician for ODB/AIDS treatment drugs. The physician's CPSO registration number should be included on each prescription for purposes of verification. In some cases, a Limited Use form should also be completed if the product is normally reimbursed via this mechanism. For further information, call the Drug Programs Branch at: **(416) 327-8109**.
- c) Limited Use Facilitated Access*: Reimbursement for certain agents (e.g., 3TC, saquinavir) will be approved upon fulfillment of the following conditions: CD4 \leq 500; drug to be used in combination with another antiretroviral; physician is approved as a Facilitated Access prescriber. A Limited Use prescription form must be completed and given to the patient to present to the pharmacist at the time the prescription is filled. The Limited Use prescription form may also be faxed to the pharmacy.
- d) Limited Use*: For each prescription, the physician must complete a Limited Use (LU) prescription form. The LU prescription form is the only form that may be used for

LU drugs. The LU form should be completed as a regular prescription, and must also include the appropriate LU code (indication for use) and the physician's CPSO number. This form must be presented to the pharmacist at the time the prescription is filled. The LU prescription form will be valid for one year from the initial date it was completed and signed by the prescriber. Beginning January 1, 2000, Limited Use prescription forms will be pre-printed with individual physicians' names, addresses, and CPSO numbers. Forms may be obtained by calling **1-888-310-9008**, or faxing a request to **(613) 548-6634**.

e) Section 8: Application for coverage of drugs not falling into any of the previous categories is done on an individual patient basis. Pertinent patient information (including concise clinical description and therapeutic plan) is usually required, and submissions may be faxed to the Director of the Drug Programs Branch at **(416) 327-8123**.

Trillium Drug Program: Ontario residents who do not meet criteria for ODB may be eligible to receive drug reimbursement via the Trillium Drug Program, after paying a certain amount of their family income for prescription medications. This program pays for the same drugs and products that are covered under the ODB program. Similar procedures apply for reimbursement of limited use, facilitated access, or unlisted (section 8) agents. To obtain application kits or for further information, call **1-800-575-5386** or **(416) 326-1558 (Toronto)**.

Ontario Drug Distribution/Monitoring Program (ODDMP): Patients living in Ontario who are registered with the ODDMP are eligible to receive certain medications (e.g., some antiretrovirals, aerosolized pentamidine) free of charge, regardless of ODB status.

Prescriptions for these agents may be filled at designated pharmacies. For further information, call **(416) 480-4451**.

M. tuberculosis Treatment: Antimycobacterials (i.e., isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, pyrazinamide, pyridoxine) are provided free of charge for patients with M. tuberculosis infection, but not for infection with M. avium complex (MAC). These drugs are prescribed directly through the Ontario Department of Health Communicable Disease Control Notification Unit (CDCNU) at **(416) 392-7411**. Second-line agents for treatment of drug-resistant M. tuberculosis will be paid for by the City of Toronto, Public Health Department, provided the prescription includes the indication (e.g., “for resistant TB requiring second line drugs) and is filled at a designated hospital out-patient pharmacy.

Special Access Program (SAP; formerly Emergency Drug Release Program, EDRP):

This program allows prescribers to obtain medications that are currently not licensed in Canada for patients with serious or life-threatening conditions when conventional therapies have failed, are not appropriate, unavailable, or offer limited options. The Therapeutics Products Programme must be contacted at **(613) 941-2108 (08:30-16:30 hours EST)**, **(613) 941-3061 (after hours)**, **(613) 941-3194 (fax)**, or **e-mail: EDR_Drugs-BPA@hc-sc.gc.ca**. Requests are made on a per patient basis, and in some cases, the drug manufacturer should also be contacted. These drugs are often (but not always) provided free of charge (depending upon the particular product and company), and a dispensing fee may be charged. For additional information: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb-dgps/therapeut/htmleng/edrp.html>

Compassionate-Release: Manufacturers may occasionally provide agents (either investigational or licensed) free of charge on a compassionate basis, for patients who

cannot otherwise afford the medication. Further information may be obtained by contacting the manufacturer directly.