

Ministry of Health

Assistant Deputy Minister
OHIP, Pharmaceuticals and
Devices Division

438 University Ave, 4th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Tel.: 437-990-7624

Ministère de la Santé

Sous-ministre adjoint
Division de l'Assurance-santé, des produits
pharmaceutiques et des appareils et accessoires
fonctionnels

438 Av University, 4ème étage
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Tél.: 437-990-7624



CLIENT NAME



Dear Ontarian,

I'd like to take this occasion to wish you a happy upcoming birthday and to let you know about a number of Ontario government programs designed for seniors. Read on for information on paying less for prescription drugs, free cancer screening and other resources.

Pay less for prescription drugs

On the first day of the month after you turn 65 years of age, you will be automatically enrolled in the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, which covers most of the costs of your prescription drugs. Take your prescription and your Ontario health card to any Ontario pharmacy and tell the pharmacist you are eligible for the ODB program.

What drugs are covered by this program?

For a list of covered prescription drugs go to ontario.ca/DrugBenefit or ask your pharmacist. Eligible drugs must be prescribed by Ontario doctors or other licensed health care professionals and must be dispensed by a registered Ontario pharmacy.

How much will I need to pay?	
If you are:	You will pay:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a single senior with income above \$22,200; or a senior couple with a combined income above \$37,100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first \$100 of total prescription costs at the beginning of every program year – this is the 'deductible'; and A small fee of up to \$6.11 (the exact amount will depend on what your pharmacy charges) – this is the 'co-payment'.

What if I can't afford the deductible and co-payment?

You can apply for the Seniors Co-Payment Program if you are:

- a single senior with an income of \$22,200 or less; or
- a senior couple with a combined income of \$37,100 or less.

If you're eligible, you will pay no yearly deductible and only up to \$2.00 per prescription.

In order to apply, complete the Co-payment Application for Seniors form and send it to the Ministry of Health. You can get application forms:

- at most Ontario pharmacies
- through the mail; Call 416-503-4586 or 1-888-405-0405 to have one sent to you
- online at ontario.ca/DrugBenefit

Send your application at least one month before you turn 65 so that you are enrolled by the time you are eligible for the Ontario Drug Benefit program.

What else should I know about the Ontario Drug Benefit program?

If you have an insurance plan that includes drug benefits, ask the insurance company if your plan covers the deductible and co-payments.

If your family is currently enrolled in the Trillium Drug Program (TDP), your enrolment will end when all individuals in your household turn 65. There will be no interruption to your benefits. You will continue to receive coverage under the Ontario Drug Benefit program as a senior.

Free MedsCheck

If you're taking three or more medications, you can participate in a free annual medication review with your pharmacist. Your pharmacist can talk to you about over-the-counter drugs, natural health products and prescription medications. For more information, ask your pharmacist or visit ontario.ca/MedsCheck.

Cancer Prevention and Cancer Screening

It's important to think about cancer prevention and cancer screening. Early stages of certain cancers can be difficult to see or feel. Ontario's cancer screening programs offer people in certain age groups who have no cancer symptoms the opportunity to get regularly screened for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer.

If you have 5 minutes, visit MyCancerIQ.ca to assess your personal risk and create a customized plan to reduce your risk today. Print your results/action plan and share it with your doctor. Learn more at ontario.ca/ScreenForLife.

Free Vaccines

Vaccines protect you and those around you from serious preventable diseases. Ontario offers the following free vaccines for seniors:

- **Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis**
(once in adulthood)
- **Tetanus and diphtheria**
(every 10 years)
- **Flu Shot** (every fall)
- **Pneumococcal** (at age 65)
- **Shingles** (between ages 65 and 70)

You may be eligible to receive other free vaccines if you have certain medical conditions or other high-risk factors. Talk to your health care providers or local public health unit about recommended vaccines. More information is available at ontario.ca/Vaccines.

I wish you many healthy years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Dicerni
Assistant Deputy Minister
Executive Officer, Ontario Public Drug Programs