

As of January 1, 2018, the Ontario government is providing drug coverage for children and youth who are covered by OHIP and who are aged 24 and under. This program is called OHIP+. Here are some things you should know about this program.

Every Ontarian aged 24 and under who has OHIP coverage will be covered by OHIP+. Enrollment in OHIP+ will be automatic and eligible medications will be covered at no cost. OHIP+ coverage stops on the patient's 25th birthday. Patients will not need to apply to the join OHIP+, nor will they need to pay any upfront costs. Those eligible for OHIP+ simply give pharmacists their health card number and a valid prescription.

**What Is Covered**

OHIP+ will cover all drugs currently available through the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, including drugs eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP). If a drug is not available through the ODB program, it

# Drug Coverage For Ontarians Age 24 and Under

By: Matthew Conway, Pharmacist



will not be covered through OHIP+. Examples of common drug products used by children and youth, which are covered through the ODB program, include: antibiotics to treat infections, asthma inhalers, various insulins, oral diabetic medications and diabetes test strips, antidepressants, oral contraceptives, epilepsy drugs, mental health medications, drugs to treat ADHD and some drugs to treat childhood cancers and other rare conditions.

**Post-Secondary Students**  
Ontarians attending university or

college, or those living outside the province, will still have coverage consistent with current OHIP reimbursement interprovincial coverage which is limited to physician and hospital services. Prescription medications obtained in a province outside of Ontario will not be covered under OHIP+. If you travel outside the province for a long period of time, as long as your prescription allows it, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care may pay for a travel supply of medication of up to an additional 100 to 200 days. The

prescription needs to be filled at an Ontario pharmacy.

**Ask Your Pharmacist**

In addition to the drugs listed above, there are pharmacy-led programs that may also be covered through OHIP+. One example of these is the Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Program. Ask your pharmacist about any medications or programs that you are unsure about being covered under OHIP+.

**Additional Information**

All Ontario children and youth between the ages of 0-24 will automatically be covered under OHIP+. An individual who does not wish to receive coverage under the program can opt out by contacting Service Ontario at 1-866-532-3161.

**ASK THE EXPERT:**

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## Pharmacists Are Health Professionals



As prescription drug professionals, we can help ensure you understand your medication completely. We offer regular checks of your medication and can help you stay current with medication changes and updates. We are a partner in your healthcare.

- MedsCheck 🧪 Compounding 🧪 Prescription Refills
- Influenza Vaccinations 🧪 Smoking Cessation 🧪 Vaccinations
- Blood Pressure Monitoring 🧪 Health Information

Our pharmacists are a resource for you and any healthcare questions you have. If we cannot answer them, we can likely direct you to someone who can. We are part of your community, and your best health matters to us.

8 pharmacists. 3 locations. 1 goal: your best health.