

OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

Starting January 1, 2018, the youth of Ontario will have 100% coverage for over 4,400 drugs under the government funded OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare program (OHIP+). There is no registration required. Ontario residents under the age of 25 simply need to present their OHIP card or OHIP number at the pharmacy along with their prescription.

To answer some of the most commonly asked questions the Ministry of Ontario has launched a user-friendly website aimed at providing key information <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus> to the general public.

We at ClaimSecure; however, know that our clients are not the general public. We hope this eNews will provide you with the depth of information you have been looking for regarding the OHIP+ program.

First, let's take a look at what drug products will be covered by the OHIP+ program.

1. Generic Drugs¹
2. All drug products listed in the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary (ODBF). Some examples would be:
 - Antibiotics
 - Inhalers
 - Epinephrine auto-injectors
3. As well as medications funded through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) will be covered for individuals who meet the medical eligibility criteria. Examples of EAP drugs:
 - Remicade
 - Humira
 - Enbrel

What happens when the plan member is prescribed an Exceptional Access Program drug?

If a drug is available through EAP, the prescriber (physician or nurse practitioner) must submit a request to EAP on the plan member's behalf by completing the EAP form. Many commonly prescribed high cost specialty drugs for the treatment of severe asthma, juvenile arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are covered under the EAP program.

Members should be advised to speak to their physician and apply to EAP for approval prior to submitting a request to ClaimSecure for access to a Special Authorization drug to ensure there are no delays in the approval process.



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What about plan members who are currently taking an EAP drug?

To assist members who are currently using Specialty Drugs such as Remicade, Humira and Enbrel we have partnered with the applicable manufacturer-sponsored Patient Support Programs. We have identified members taking high-cost specialty drugs and we will help them reach out to their physician or nurse practitioner. The member can then request that the physician or nurse practitioner complete and submit the required EAP application on the members' behalf prior to December 2017. We will be available to answer any questions the member may have. This will ensure a seamless transition of coverage from the private plan to OHIP+.

As you can see the OHIP+ program will provide coverage for a wide variety of medications. Great news right? But let's look a little deeper.

Private plans still offer great value

The average drug plan administered by ClaimSecure covers over 9,000 drugs that have been carefully reviewed and screened by our clinical pharmacy team. That is more than double the OHIP+ program! With such a large difference in the number of covered drugs we are confident that individuals will continue to both need and value their private coverage.

OHIP+ is a generic program

Private plans that honour brand name pricing or recognize physician's "No Substitution" will continue to provide value to members even on OHIP+ claims. The cost difference between the eligible generic drug and the brand name drug will be paid for by the private plan.

Out of province claims

OHIP+ does not cover medications dispensed by pharmacies outside of Ontario. Your private plan will continue to cover any eligible medications for members and their dependents that are traveling or studying in another province.

We are ready

ClaimSecure's adjudication system has been programmed to ensure that OHIP+ will be the first payer for medications covered by OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare on January 1, 2018. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Account Manager.

¹ Brand name drugs without a generic equivalent will be eligible.