

# **Executive Officer Notice:**

## **Elimination of Facilitated Access to HIV/AIDS Drug Products from the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/CDI**

**December 14, 2023**

The ministry is eliminating the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Facilitated Access (HIV FA) mechanism under the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/CDI (the “Formulary”) as set out below:

- 1) For HIV/AIDS drug products currently listed in part III-A of the Formulary (i.e., Formulary benefits):

Effective December 29, 2023, the ministry is removing the requirement for prescribers to be approved for the HIV FA mechanism by removing the HIV FA prescriber criteria from the Therapeutic Notes and Limited Use (“LU”) criteria where they appear.

As an example, the statement below associated with these drug products will be removed from both the LU criteria and Therapeutic Notes.

“The prescriber must be approved for the Facilitated Access to HIV/AIDS Drug Products mechanism.”

The removal of the statement means that the drug products will be funded under the ODB program when dispensed pursuant to a valid prescription for an ODB program recipient. In the case of an LU benefit, the prescriber must confirm that the ODB program recipient meets the applicable LU criteria on the Formulary by writing the corresponding Reason for Use (RFU) code on the prescription.

- 2) For HIV/AIDS products currently listed in part VI-A of the Formulary (i.e., under HIV FA):

Effective February 29, 2024, the ministry will be eliminating the HIV FA mechanism for these products as follows:

Generic Name and strength	Brand Name	DIN/NPN	Effective February 29, 2024:
Doxycycline 100mg Cap	Apo-Doxy	00740713	Reimbursement will be provided on a case-by-case basis through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) for eligible ODB program recipients who are unable to tolerate the tablet formulations which are listed as General Benefits on the Formulary.
	Teva-Doxycycline	00725250	
Paromomycin 250mg Cap	Humatin	02078759	Reimbursement will be provided on a case-by-case basis through the EAP for eligible ODB program recipients.  Note: Recommended for the treatment of cryptosporidium. Therapy should be discontinued if no benefits are observed after a three-week trial.
Nutrition Products	Funded nutrition products and their PIN/NPNs are listed in Part IX-A of the Formulary for eligible ODB program recipients.		Nutrition products will be removed from part VI-A of the Formulary.  Nutrition products will continue to be funded under the eligibility criteria outlined in Part IX-A of the Formulary for eligible ODB program recipients.
Pneumococcal Vaccine Inj-1 Dose Pk	Pneumovax 23	00431648	Pneumococcal vaccine will be removed from part VI-A of the Formulary.  Note: Pneumococcal vaccine is a publicly funded vaccine administered through Public Health Ontario. For more information, please contact your local Public Health Unit. You can use the <a href="#">Public Health Locator</a> to see which unit is yours.
Potassium Chloride 8meq LA Tab and SR Cap	Apo-K	00602884	Potassium Chloride will be removed from part VI-A of the Formulary.
	Micro-K Extencaps	02042304	

Patients currently using any of the products listed in part VI-A of the Formulary should make an appointment with their prescriber to ensure a smooth transition of coverage as applicable and avoid unintended treatment interruptions.

In the case of drug products eligible for funding under the EAP, a prescriber must submit a request for funding to the ministry for review. The request must include relevant medical information about the ODB program recipient to whom the funding request relates. More information about the EAP and a direct link to the EAP application form can be found on the ministry's website at: [Exceptional Access Program \(EAP\)](#).

Nutrition Products are listed substances reimbursed for ODB-eligible persons in defined circumstances under Part IX-A of the ODB Formulary/CDI. For ODB-eligible persons that meet the patient eligibility criteria, each claim for reimbursement must be supported by a valid and fully completed Nutrition Product Form. The Nutrition Product form (which includes the patient eligibility criteria) can be accessed from the ministry's website at: [Nutrition Product Form](#). Please refer to Part IX-A of the [ODB Formulary/CDI](#) for more information.

These changes support the ministry's objective to create a modern and sustainable drug system that continues to offer high quality treatment and reflects progress in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, which has evolved to enable more patients with HIV/AIDS to be managed by prescribers who oversee the care of patients with HIV/AIDS.

Effective February 29, 2024, the existing HIV FA Physician List will no longer be in use and physician enrolment for HIV FA through the EAP will no longer be required.

More information about changes to HIV/AIDS drug products currently listed in part III-A of the Formulary (i.e., Formulary benefits) effective as of the December 2023 Formulary update and changes to HIV/AIDS products currently listed in part VI-A of the Formulary (i.e., under HIV FA) effective as of the February 2024 Formulary update, will be available at the following link: [Formulary / Comparative Drug Index \(CDI\) Edition 43 | Ontario Drug Benefit \(ODB\) Formulary / Comparative Drug Index \(CDI\) and Monthly Formulary Updates | ontario.ca](#)

### **Additional Information:**

#### **For pharmacies:**

For billing inquiries, 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

All other inquiries regarding the elimination of HIV FA mechanism under the ODB program should be directed to [DrugProgramsDelivery@ontario.ca](mailto:DrugProgramsDelivery@ontario.ca).