

Executive Officer Notice: Updated Income Eligibility Thresholds for the Seniors Co-Payment Program under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

May 5, 2026

Effective August 1, 2026, the start of the 2026/27 program year, the income eligibility thresholds for the Seniors Co-Payment Program (SCP) under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program will be adjusted. The individual annual net income threshold will be updated from \$25,000 to \$25,480 and the combined annual net income threshold will be updated from \$41,500 to \$42,290.

The individual annual net income threshold applies to a senior who does not have a spouse, a senior who has a married spouse with whom they no longer live in a conjugal relationship, and a senior who has a spouse living in a long-term care home or community home for opportunity.

The combined annual net income threshold applies to a senior who has a spouse, other than a spouse described in the paragraph above.

These updates ensure that the SCP income eligibility thresholds better reflect cost-of-living increases in Ontario and continue to be in line with increases to income supports for seniors.

On the first day of the month after they turn 65 years of age, all OHIP-insured Ontarians are automatically enrolled in the ODB program, which covers most of the costs of more than 7,400 prescription drug products. Generally, seniors pay the first \$100 of their prescription drug costs each year (annual deductible) before they are eligible for drug coverage.¹ After the deductible is paid, seniors then pay up to \$6.11 toward the dispensing fee for every prescription (a co-payment). The SCP is an application-based program under the ODB Program for seniors with incomes less than certain income eligibility thresholds. Seniors

¹ For the first year of ODB program eligibility as a senior, depending on when the senior turns 65, the deductible may be lower than \$100.

enrolled in the SCP pay no annual deductible and a reduced co-payment of up to \$2 per each prescription, improving access to essential drugs.

Ontarians who are currently 65 years of age or older, and who meet the new income eligibility thresholds, are encouraged to apply to the SCP now. Ontarians turning 65 in the coming months are encouraged to submit their application at least one month before they turn 65. This will ensure that those who qualify for the SCP will benefit from the elimination of the annual deductible and a reduction in their co-payments beginning August 1, 2026, and minimize the chance of out-of-pocket expenses.

To avoid unnecessary delays and ensure timely processing, applicants can complete the Seniors Co-Payment Program Application available on the [Ontario Drug Benefit Program Online Applications and Forms website](https://forms.ontariodrugbenefit.ca/) at: <https://forms.ontariodrugbenefit.ca/>.

The online form will guide them through the application process to ensure all the information required for enrolment is provided before submission.

A paper copy of the SCP form and guide can also be requested over the phone by calling toll free 1-888-405-0405 or 416-503-4586 in the Toronto area, or by emailing seniors@ontariodrugbenefit.ca.

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, a Questions and Answers document can be found under the 2026 section at the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-drug-programs-executive-officer-communications>

Ontario Regulation 201/96 under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* has been amended to enable annual review of the SCP income eligibility thresholds, and adjustment as needed every August 1 to reflect inflation increases based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index. The SCP income eligibility thresholds for each program year will be published on the [SCP website](https://ontario.ca/seniorscopayment) at: <https://ontario.ca/seniorscopayment>.

For the authoritative text of the regulation, please visit the e-Laws website at: <http://www.ontario.ca/laws>

Additional information:

For pharmacies:

If you have any questions, please contact the ODB 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.