



March 2019

OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare Program

What is changing?

The Government of Ontario is making changes to OHIP+, effective April 1, 2019:

- Children and youth under the age of 25 with private coverage must claim prescriptions through their private drug plan, as was the case prior to January 1, 2018 (implementation date of OHIP+).
- Children and youth under the age of 25 NOT covered by private benefits plans (including insured, ASO and HSA plans), will continue to qualify to receive eligible prescriptions at no cost through OHIP+.

There will be no coordination of benefits between private plans and OHIP+ even if a drug is not covered on the individual's private drug plan. As before, those individuals or families with private coverage with significant out-of-pocket costs, despite their private plan, can apply to the Trillium Drug Program (TDP) for financial assistance.

Exceptional Access Drugs

For children and youth who may have received coverage through OHIP+ for an Exceptional Access Program (EAP) drug, a transition period of six months is in effect, starting April 1st. Such patients will continue to receive their EAP drug, if eligible, under their private drug benefit plan by providing proof of payment such as the prescription receipt and details regarding the EAP approval with expiration date (if available). Letters from the Ministry of Health have been issued to impacted patients with an EAP drug, as well as their physicians, alerting them to this need for action.

Starting with July renewals, for insured plans with Ontario employees, a rate adjustment will be incorporated into the renewal analysis to account for the impact of this change.

More information is also available from the Ministry of Health (MOH) FAQs for Patients at the following link:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/notices/fq_pat_exec_office_20190311.pdf

A similar communication will be sent to Plan Sponsors (Ontario) with their April Invoice. Feel free to contact your RWAM Marketing Manager if you have any questions.

