

## Changes to the Ontario Drug Benefit – Effective August 1, 2016

The Ontario government is introducing changes to the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program that will make access to drugs cheaper for more than 170,000 seniors (65 years old and beyond) based on new eligibility thresholds.

Starting August 1, 2016, the government will change the income thresholds required to qualify for the low-income seniors benefit, called the Seniors Co-Payment Program, as follows:

Senior Co-Payment Program		
	SINGLE SENIOR	SENIOR COUPLES
<b>New income-threshold effective August 1, 2016</b>	<b>Less than or equal to \$19,300</b>	<b>Less than or equal to \$32,300</b>
Current income threshold	Less than or equal to \$16,018	Less than or equal to \$24,175

Seniors enrolled in the Seniors Co-Payment Program pay no annual deductible and only pay a \$2 co-payment fee per prescription and save approximately \$130 a year in out-of-pocket drug costs.

### **How to Apply for the Seniors Co-Payment Program**

Complete a Co-payment Application for Seniors form and send it to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

It takes time to process an application, so we encourage eligible seniors to send in their form before July 1, 2016, i.e. one month before the program's yearly start date of August 1, 2016.

Applications can be found:

- At most Ontario pharmacies and all MPP Offices;
- On the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care website:  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/drugs/programs/odb/opdp\\_after65.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/drugs/programs/odb/opdp_after65.aspx)  
**OR**
- By calling the Seniors Co-Payment Program at 1-888-405-0405; or 416-503-4586 in Toronto

Forms have also been sent to retirement homes and elderly persons' centres.