

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Ministère des
Services sociaux
et communautaires



Social Policy Development Division
Ontario Disability Support Program Branch
3rd Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9
Tel # 416-326-1880
Fax # 416-326-1735
Website: <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/odsp/index.aspx>

November 26, 2014

Barbara Major McEwan, RD, President and Council Chair
College of Dietitians of Ontario
The College of Dietitians of Ontario
5775 Yonge Street, Suite 1810, Box 30
Toronto ON M2M 4J1
www.collegeofdietitians.org

Dear Ms. Major McEwan:

Re: Special Diet Allowance

I am writing to inform you of changes to the government's Special Diet Allowance (SDA) program which may be of interest to some of your members.

The SDA assists social assistance recipients who have an existing medical condition for which a special diet is generally recognized by the Ontario medical community as being helpful in treatment, and which results in additional costs.

Effective December 1, 2014, the following three conditions will be added to the list of eligible medical conditions for which an SDA may be provided:

1. Congenital heart defect – Have had: a Ross procedure or an arterial switch procedure or coexisting coarctation of the aorta;
2. Unintended weight loss due to Interferon treatment of Hepatitis C (Body Mass Index [BMI] <25); and
3. Rett Syndrome (BMI <18.5).

This means that social assistance recipients (from either Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program) that:

- Have been diagnosed with a congenital heart defect and have had a Ross procedure or an arterial switch procedure or coexisting coarctation of the aorta;
- Have greater than 5% unintended weight loss due to Interferon treatment of Hepatitis C and have a BMI of less than 25; or
- Have Rett Syndrome and a BMI of less than 18.5

are now eligible to receive the Special Diet Allowance. The SDA will assist these recipients with additional costs associated with their special dietary requirements.

Eligible recipients can request an Application for Special Diet Allowance form from their local Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program office. Please note that the current application form will be updated to reflect the addition of these conditions in the near future. On an interim basis, an insert will accompany the application form, along with an information sheet to provide clarification to approved health professionals on these changes. Please find both documents attached in both English and French, for your reference.

Further information on the SDA can be accessed on the ministry's website at the following links:

Ontario Disability Support Program recipients: Directive 6.4

http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/directives/ODSPDirectives/income_support/6_4_ODSP_ISDirectives.aspx

Ontario Works recipients: Directive 6.6

http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/directives/OWDirectives/6_6_OW_Directives.aspx

Should you have any other questions about this change, please feel free to contact Dr. Andres Laxamana, Manager, Medical Advisory Unit, directly either by phone at (416) 314-9167, or by email at Andres.Laxamana@Ontario.ca.

Yours truly,



Patti Redmond
Director

c. Jeff Butler, Director, Ontario Works Branch