

OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare

Beginning January 1, 2018, Ontarians 24 years or younger, who have OHIP coverage, will obtain free prescription medications under the Ontario Government's new *OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare Program*. The following is a summary based on our understanding of the OHIP+ coverage. Members should contact the OHIP program directly for detailed and up-to-date information.

Coverage will be automatic with no up-front costs, as long as the drug is listed on the *OHIP+ Ontario Drug Benefits Formulary*. Parents, caregivers or clients will simply need to show their prescription and health card to their pharmacist for coverage.

There are over 4000 medications and nutritional products listed on the formulary; a number of them relate to dietetic practice (e.g. diabetes, genetic disorders, etc.). RDs should understand the OHIP+ program as applicable to their dietetic practice:

1. Under the *OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare Program*, RDs will not have the authority to sign Ontario Drug Benefits – Nutrition Products forms for those clients

who use oral/enteral nutritional supplements as their sole source of nutrition. This is due to the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act, 1990*, which specifies that an authorized prescriber is a physician or nurse practitioner. However, RDs should be aware that under the OHIP+ program, the cost of the nutritional products listed on the drug formulary will be covered for those 24 and under.

2. RDs should be aware of the nutrition-related prescription drugs on the formulary so they can best inform clients and subsequently recommend to physicians or nurse practitioners to prescribe for clients in relation to nutrition care (e.g. motility agents, enzymes, insulin regimens, etc.). This may be important for clients who would not have any other means of affording the drug outside of the OHIP+ program. As always, RD recommendations should always be client-centred and evidence-based.

For more information on *OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare* refer to the following link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus>