

To: Plan Members

Date: November 22, 2017

Subject: Important information - OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

If you are 24 years old or under -- or have dependents age 24 or under -- this is an important message about your drug coverage.

What changes are happening to my drug coverage?

Starting **January 1, 2018** all Ontario residents age 24 and under who have OHIP coverage will be automatically covered by **OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare**. All that will be required at the pharmacy is a valid prescription from your doctor/prescriber and your health card or health card number. There will be no out of pocket costs, such as deductibles or co-payments. This program will stop on your or your dependent's 25th birthday.

What medications will now be covered by the government plan vs private drug plan?

OHIP+ will cover all drugs currently covered through the [Ontario Drug Benefit \(ODB\)](#) program. This includes more than 4,400 drug products listed on the ODB formulary. Additional drugs not covered by the ODB formulary may also be eligible for funding through the government [Exceptional Access Program \(EAP\)](#) under specific clinical circumstances.

Empire Life group plans cover many more drugs than those listed on the ODB formulary. We will continue to cover eligible drugs **not covered** by the ODB formulary and not funded or not approved through the government EAP, subject to any plan design limitations.

What is the government Exceptional Access Program (EAP)?

The government EAP enables access to drugs not funded on the ODB formulary, or where no appropriate alternative is available on the ODB formulary.

Doctors are required to submit a request to the government for consideration of coverage through the EAP on behalf of their patient. With an approved EAP request there will be full coverage for the cost of that medication.

What you need to do:

If you or your dependents are age 24 or under:

1. Remember to present a valid health card or health card number when you go to the pharmacy on or after January 1, 2018.
2. If you, or your dependent are taking a drug on an ongoing basis, the government recommends you talk to your doctor to see if the drug you are taking is part of the government's EAP. If it is -- and your doctor recommends you continue to take the current drug -- **you should ask your doctor to submit an EAP request form now to avoid interruption of coverage on January 1, 2018.**

If an EAP request is denied, the drug would be covered under the private drug plan if it is an eligible drug under that plan, subject to any plan design limitations.

Get educated about OHIP+ -- resources to help you

For more information on OHIP+ please visit <http://www.ontario.ca/OHIPplus>.

On the government website you will find information on the EAP process, turnaround times for EAP processing and other important information.

If you have questions about the government program you can contact the Ontario Ministry of Health call centre as outlined below or send an email to OHIPplus@ontario.ca.

Type of question	Contact information
General OHIP+ questions	Call Service Ontario , INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (toll free) In Toronto, 416-314-5518
Specific drug coverage questions	Call Ontario Public Drug Programs at 1-866-811-9893 (toll free) In Toronto, 416-327-8109

You can also find further information on the [Empire Life plan member website](#).