



Ontario Pharmacists Welcome Ontario Government's Support for Co-Payments During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenge to our sector. Since the first reported case, pharmacists have been on the front-line supporting Ontarians across the province as an essential service.

Two months ago, we supported the government's initiative to move to a 30-day limit on prescription medications to ensure stability in the province's supply of drugs during COVID-19. The Ontario government adopted this measure on March 20 and it has been successful in protecting the supply of drugs and medications.

An unfortunate consequence of this policy was an additional financial burden placed on Ontarians through added co-payments, in particular on our vulnerable senior population. As a result, the OPA and the Ontario government immediately started working together to find a solution to remove the financial burden for Ontarians while also ensuring that pharmacies could continue to operate without added financial pressures.

We are pleased that today the Ontario government has responded to these concerns. Effective May 13, 2020 until June 30, 2020, eligible Ontarians will not pay a co-payment for a prescription that is for more than a 30-day supply of medication and is being dispensed in instalments due to the Ministry's supply limit recommendation. Co-payments for such prescriptions have been reduced to \$0 for this time period. More information on this policy is available here at [the government's official news release](#).

These efforts are the results of the ongoing collaboration between the OPA and the Ontario government. This policy will help ensure that all Ontarians can get access to the medication they need during this unprecedented time.

We want to thank the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott for her partnership and dedication to supporting Ontarians during this challenging time. We look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Health in responding to the challenge of COVID-19 and ensuring that all Ontarians have access to the care they need when and where they need it.