## Financial Assistance for People with Diabetes in Ontario

There are a number of financial assistance programs available to help offset some of the costs associated with diabetes care. For more information or to receive an application package, please contact the individual program directly.

### Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program - Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care


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<tr>
<th>ABOUT THE PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program is Ontario’s publicly-funded drug program. The ODB program covers:</td>
<td>You are eligible for ODB coverage if you are an Ontario resident with a valid health card AND you belong to any one of the following categories:</td>
<td>If a drug product is not covered under ODB, you may be able to apply for coverage through the Ministry’s “Exceptional Access Program” (EAP). Ask your doctor for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• approximately 3,200 prescription drug products listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary</td>
<td>• senior 65 yrs+</td>
<td>Depending on income, some seniors may be required to pay a $100 deductible and $6.11 dispensing fee. All other individuals covered through ODB, including Trillium Drug program clients, may be asked to pay up to $2 each time they fill a prescription</td>
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<td>• a number of limited-use prescription drug products</td>
<td>• receiving social assistance (ODSP/OW)</td>
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<td>• most blood glucose test strips</td>
<td>• Trillium Drug Program client</td>
<td>Note: ODB does not cover syringes, pen needles, lancets, etc. Coverage for these items may be available through other programs (see program listings in this chart for more information)</td>
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<td>• some nutritional products</td>
<td>• receiving Home Care services</td>
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<td>Drug products must be prescribed by an authorized Ontario prescriber and purchased in a pharmacy or through a doctor authorized to sell prescription drug products.</td>
<td>• resident of a long-term care facility or Homes for Special Care</td>
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**Note:** You cannot apply to ODB directly. Coverage begins automatically when you turn 65, or when deemed eligible for social assistance, or when enrolled in Trillium Drug Program, etc.
**Trillium Drug Program (TDP) - Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**

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<td>The Trillium Drug Program (TDP) is intended for Ontario residents who have high prescription drug costs in relation to their net household income. The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program provides Trillium Drug Program clients with coverage for:</td>
<td>You can apply to the Trillium Drug Program if:</td>
<td>Trillium will set a “deductible” based on your household income and size; the lower your household income, the lower your deductible. Your coverage begins once you have met this deductible. Check with your pharmacist or health care provider to make sure your prescriptions are covered through Trillium. <strong>Note:</strong> You must have a prescription for your strips in order to receive coverage. Your doctor can provide a prescription for you. <strong>Note:</strong> Trillium does not cover syringes, pen needles and lancets. Coverage for these items may be available through other programs (see program listings in this chart for more information)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• approximately 3,200 prescription drug products listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary</td>
<td>• you are an Ontario resident with a valid health card; <strong>and</strong> • you don’t have private insurance OR your private insurance does not cover 100% of your prescription drug costs; <strong>and</strong> • you are <strong>not</strong> otherwise eligible for coverage under the ODB program (ie. you are <strong>not</strong> a senior 65+, you are <strong>not</strong> on social assistance, you are <strong>not</strong> a resident of a long-term care facility or Homes for Special Care; and you are <strong>not</strong> receiving Home Care services)</td>
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<td>• a number of limited-use prescription drug products</td>
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<td>• most blood glucose test strips</td>
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<td>• some nutritional products</td>
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### Ontario Monitoring for Health Program (MFHP)

A Ministry of Health and Long-term Care funded program administered by the Canadian Diabetes Association

Toll free: 1-800-361-0796  

The MFHP covers:

- 75% of the cost of blood glucose test strips and lancets, up to a maximum of $820 per year
- 75% of the cost of a blood glucose meter (up to a maximum of $75), once every 5 years
- 75% of the cost of a “talking” blood glucose meter (up to a maximum of $300), once every 5 years.  
  **Note:** For individuals who are visually impaired only. Letter from doctor required.

**Who is eligible?**

You can apply to the MFHP if:

- you use insulin to manage your diabetes OR have gestational diabetes; **and**
- you are an Ontario resident with a valid health card; **and**
- you have no other coverage (in whole or in part) for the supplies being claimed

**Additional information**

You must have your first claim form signed by a doctor to confirm that you use insulin or have gestational diabetes

Check to see if your pharmacy participates in “Third Party Billing”. This means that you pay only 25% of the purchase price (the amount not covered by the MFHP) and the pharmacy is later reimbursed for the other 75%

To receive a claim form and claimant information package, please call 1-800-361-0796. MFHP claim forms may also be available at your local pharmacy or diabetes education centre.

**Note:** The MFHP does not provide coverage for syringes or pen needles.  
Seniors 65+, please see [Syringes for Seniors](http://www.diabetes.ca/get-involved/programs-entry/ontario-monitoring-for-health-program/) program information on page 5 of this handout. Social assistance recipients, please see [OW/ODSP](http://www.diabetes.ca/get-involved/programs-entry/ontario-monitoring-for-health-program/) program information on page 4 of this handout
### Social Assistance Programs: Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) & Ontario Works (OW)

*Ministry of Community & Social Services*


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| If you are an ODSP or OW client, your prescription drug products and blood glucose test strips are automatically covered through your Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) card. Coverage for other diabetes supplies: | Ontario residents receiving social assistance:  
- Ontario Works (OW) recipients  
or  
- Ontario Disability Support (ODSP) Program recipients | **Special Diet Allowance:**  
If you are a social assistance recipient and you have diabetes, you are eligible to apply for the “Special Diet Allowance”. This Allowance provides additional monthly amounts to help cover the cost of special diets for certain medical conditions including diabetes. Ask your Caseworker for more information.  
**Medical Appointments:**  
If you regularly spend $15 or more per month travelling to medical appointments, you may be able to get this money back. Ask your Caseworker for more information.  
If you disagree with a decision made by Social Assistance, there are ways to appeal the decision. Call your local OW/ODSP office to find out how or contact your local Community Legal Clinic. (Find the Clinic nearest you by calling 1-800-668-8258 or ask for info at any other community service agency) |

If you are NOT using insulin:  
You are eligible to receive a monthly amount to help cover the cost of other diabetes supplies such as lancets, alcohol swabs, etc. For more info, please contact your Caseworker directly.  
If you ARE using insulin:  
75% of the cost of your lancets can be covered through the Monitoring for Health Program *(see page 3 of this handout)*; the other 25% of the cost of your lancets should be covered by Social Assistance. Ask your Caseworker for more information or call the Monitoring for Health Program at 1-800-361-0796.

You can also receive a monthly amount to help cover the cost of other supplies such as syringes, pen needles and alcohol swabs. For more info, please contact your Caseworker directly.
### Insulin Pump & Supplies Program - Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

**Toll free:** 1-800-268-6021  

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| The Insulin Pump and Supplies Program covers 100% of the price of an insulin pump; paid directly to the vendor once funding is approved. Vendor must be registered with the ADP. The Program also provides a yearly grant of $2,400 for insulin pump supplies (paid quarterly in $600 installments). | You can apply to the Insulin Pump and Supplies Program if:  
- you have type 1 diabetes; and  
- you are an Ontario resident with a valid health card; and  
- you meet the established eligibility criteria | Eligibility criteria includes: not having success managing with multiple daily injections; ability to properly use an insulin pump; ongoing commitment to blood glucose monitoring; participation in a pump education program; etc.  
*Diabetes Team will determine eligibility and assist in completing application.* |

### Syringes for Seniors Program - Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Assistive Devices Program

**Toll free:** 1-800-268-6021  

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| The Syringes for Seniors program provides assistance for the purchase of syringes and pen needles for Seniors (65 years and over) who use insulin on a daily basis. The Program provides an annual grant of $170. | To apply, you must be:  
- an Ontario resident with a valid health card; and  
- 65 years or older; and  
- using insulin on daily basis | Ask your pharmacist for a note confirming that you use insulin and send this along with your application.  
*Lancets: The Monitoring for Health Program can provide a 75% reimbursement for the cost of your lancets. Please see page 3 of this handout.* |
**Assistive Devices Program (ADP) - Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**


### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) helps people with long-term physical disabilities get needed equipment and supplies (wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs etc.). The program covers over 8,000 separate pieces of equipment and supplies.

ADP pays up to 75% of the cost of the equipment or contributes a fixed amount.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You can apply for assistance if:

- you are an Ontario resident with a valid health card; **and**
- you have a long-term physical disability (lasting 6 months or longer)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A complete list of products covered by the program is available on ADP’s website or by calling the program directly.

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**Compassionate Care Programs for Low-Income Patients – Pharmaceutical Companies**

Many drug manufacturers have short-term emergency assistance programs available to help low-income patients cover the cost of their prescription drug products. Contact your doctor for more information to see if the company that manufactures your oral diabetes medication or insulin provides any type of financial assistance for patients in need. Specific eligibility rules apply and vary from program to program.

**Example: Lilly Canada Cares Insulin & Glucagon Assistance Program**

Provides Eli Lilly insulin products (up to a 3-month supply with each claim) to individuals who cannot afford their insulin and do not have government or private insurance; can also help provide Glucagon and an insulin pen.

To be considered for assistance, you must be using insulin **and** you must not have private or government health insurance **and** your household income must fall under the Statistics Canada “Low-Income Cut-off” line. Ask your doctor or diabetes educator for more information. Your doctor will have to apply to the Lilly Canada Cares program on your behalf.
The Diabetes Hope Foundation  
Tel: (905) 670-0557  Web: www.diabeteshopefoundation.com  Email: info@diabeteshopefoundation.com

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<td>** For children and families living with type 1 diabetes only ** Includes scholarship opportunities and medical assistance programs to help children, adolescents and their families cope with the financial burdens associated with diabetes</td>
<td>Contact the organization directly to find out more.</td>
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FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Veterans Health Benefits Program – Veteran Affairs Canada  
Tel: 1-866-522-2122  Web: http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/healthcare

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<td>Offers a variety of health benefits and services including medical/hospital/nursing services, prescription drugs, dental and hearing services, vision (eye) care, special equipment/aids for daily living, prosthetics and orthotics, etc</td>
<td>Please contact program directly (includes qualified Veterans, released/still-serving CF members, RCMP members and certain civilians, as well as their dependants or survivors)</td>
<td>Coverage for other services (e.g. foot care services) may also be available to some veterans. Please contact Veterans Affairs directly.</td>
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Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (for First Nations & Inuit) – Health Canada  

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| Offers assistance with medications and medical services when not covered by any other federal/provincial programs or private insurance plans. Coverage includes: prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, medical supplies and equipment, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, dental and vision care, medical transportation, etc. | Must be identified as a resident of Canada and one of the following:  
• a registered Indian according to the Indian Act  
• an Inuk recognized by one of the Inuit Land Claim organizations  
• an infant, less than 1 yr of age, whose parent is an eligible recipient | Medication, equipment or medical services must be medically-necessary. Prescription needed for most items. Service providers are encouraged to bill the program directly |

Tax Credits & Deductions – Canada Revenue Agency  
Toll free: 1-800-959-8281

To find out more about tax credits and deductions, including Medical Expense Tax Credit, Disability Tax Credit and Child Disability Benefit visit:  http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability/

If you are living on a low-income you may be eligible for free income tax preparation. Call the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario at 416-962-1841 for more information (clinics offered throughout Ontario from mid-February to end of March). Other free tax clinics may also be available through your local municipality/region or local community service agencies.