



Cancer Drug Funding for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous People

This reference sheet summarizes drug coverage options for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous peoples in Ontario.

Getting and Renewing an Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Card

All First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous peoples who live in Ontario are eligible for coverage under OHIP and public drug coverage programs available to Ontarians.

A valid OHIP number is needed to access services in the hospital and to apply to Ontario’s drug coverage programs.

- To apply to OHIP and get an Ontario Health card, please visit: ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card#section-3
- To renew an Ontario Health card, please visit: ontario.ca/page/health-card-renewal#section-0

Cancer Drug Coverage Programs in Ontario

All First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous peoples living in Ontario can apply to any of Ontario’s cancer drug coverage programs. A **valid OHIP** is needed to apply.

	Take-home cancer drugs (e.g., oral cancer drugs)	IV or hospital-administered cancer drugs
Programs	Ontario Drug Benefit Program (ODB); Exceptional Access Program; Case-by-Case Review Program (<i>for rare cancers</i>)	New Drug Funding Program Case-by-Case Review Program (<i>for rare cancers</i>)
Who is Covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario residents with a valid health card • Must meet one of the eligibility categories for ODB (e.g., over 65 years or older, live in long-term care, on social assistance) • Patients who do not qualify under other categories for ODB benefits, should enroll into the Trillium Drug Program. 	Ontario residents with a valid health card
How to Apply	If prior approval is required your prescribers can apply on behalf of their patients.	Prescribers apply on behalf of their patients.
Costs Covered	Amount covered depends on age/income. Patients may have co-payments/deductibles when they fill their prescription at the pharmacy.	100% drug costs covered. (Ontario Health directly reimburses the hospital).

Non-Insured Health Benefit Program (NIHB)

- The NIHB program provides eligible First Nations and Inuit clients with coverage for a range of health benefits that are not covered through other social programs, private insurance plans, or provincial or territorial health insurance. For eligibility details, visit the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) website at canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html.
- NIHB will consider funding for oral cancer medications. *Patients should apply to the Ontario Drug Benefit/Exceptional Access programs first.*
- NIHB is often seen as a payer of last resort

Options if your drug is not covered

- Ask your cancer care team for an alternate treatment option that is covered
- Private insurance companies and drug companies may offer some financial assistance
- Ask your cancer care team for a referral to a medication reimbursement specialist (also called drug access navigator, drug access facilitator). These individuals can assist in finding drug coverage from a variety of sources.

Sample of Other Supports

Please see below for more information on some of the types of supports that are available for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous people. Please contact your Indigenous Navigator to learn more.

- Seek out supports through the hospital you are accessing
- Reach out to charitable organizations, such as the Canadian Cancer Society, to learn about programs and services such as:
 - Finding accommodation during cancer treatment
 - Getting transportation to cancer treatment
 - Accessing financial support programs
- Learn about programs and services, such as the ones listed below, through the Indigenous Health and Wellness Strategy (Provincial) and Indigenous Services Canada (Federal)
 - Indigenous language translation services in a health and medical context
 - Health navigators
 - Jordan's Principle
- For primary care supports please reach out to the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council: iphcc.ca
- Sample of resources to access financial supports and related programs:
 - Canadian Cancer Society: cancer.ca/en/living-with-cancer/how-we-can-help
 - Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy: ontario.ca/page/indigenous-healing-and-wellness-strategy
 - Ontario Drug Benefit Program (ODB): health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/drugs/programs/odb/opdp_over_counter.aspx
 - Exceptional Access Program: ontario.ca/page/applying-exceptional-access-program
 - Case-by-Case Review Program: cancercareontario.ca/en/Funding/Case-by-Case_Review_Program
 - New Drug Funding Program: cancercareontario.ca/en/Funding/New_Drug_Funding_Program
 - Trillium Drug Program: ontario.ca/page/get-help-high-prescription-drug-costs