

Notice from the Executive Officer: Status Update about the Funding of Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

July 24, 2024

Direct-oral anticoagulants (DOACs) are approved by Health Canada as agents used in the treatment of blood clots. Currently, several DOACs are designated as Limited Use (LU) Benefits on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary (the “Formulary”). These DOACs are funded under the ODB program for eligible recipients who meet the applicable LU clinical criteria on the Formulary, such as criteria related to the use of a DOAC for the prevention of venous thromboembolic events, stroke, and non-valvular atrial fibrillation. Eligible recipients who do not satisfy the LU clinical criteria on the Formulary can have their authorized prescriber submit a funding request to the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) for case-by-case approval.

As of the effective date of the July 2024 update to the Formulary, DOACs will no longer be designated as LU Benefits under the ODB program and instead will be designated as General Benefits (GB) on the Formulary. This change in designation from LU Benefit to GB will apply to brand and generic versions of DOACs, including **apixaban** (brand: Eliquis), **dabigatran** (brand: Pradaxa), **edoxaban** (brand: Lixiana) and **rivaroxaban** (brand: Xarelto).

Designating DOACs as GB on the Formulary is in the public interest and consistent with the principles governing the ODB program, which include meeting the needs of Ontarians, achieving value for money, ensuring the best use of resources at every level of the system, and making funding decisions based on the best clinical and economic evidence available. The change in designation for DOACs will address unmet clinical needs, improve patient access, and is consistent with funding recommendations from health technology assessments.

All PINs for apixaban 2.5mg will be discontinued to coincide with the July 2024 update to the Formulary and the change in the designation of DOACs from LU Benefit to GB. The affected PINs can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Pharmacies accompanying this Executive Office Notice.

The July 2024 update to the Formulary will be posted on the ministry's website at:
[Formulary / Comparative Drug Index \(CDI\) Edition 43 | Ontario Drug Benefit \(ODB\)](#)

Additional Information:

For pharmacies:

For billing inquiries, please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:

Please call Service Ontario, Info line at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto,
TTY 416-327-4282