

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Pharmacies about Direct-oral anticoagulants (DOACs)

1. What are Direct-oral anticoagulants (DOACs) and how are they currently funded?

DOACs drug products approved by Health Canada as agents used in the treatment of blood clots. DOACs are currently designated on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary (the “Formulary”) as Limited Use (LU) Benefits with clinical criteria related to the prevention of venous thromboembolic events, stroke, and non-valvular atrial fibrillation. DOACs are funded under the ODB program for eligible recipients who satisfy the LU clinical criteria. 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.

2. How is the funding of DOACs under the ODB program changing?

Effective as of the July 2024 update to the Formulary, the designation of DOACs will change from being LU Benefits to General Benefits (GB).

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.

Prescribers and pharmacists will no longer be required to ensure that ODB program recipients meet LU criteria for these products for the recipient to receive coverage for DOACs through the ODB program.

3. Which products are having their designation changed from LU to GB on the Formulary?

Effective with the July 2024 Formulary update, the following brand and generic products will be designated as GB on the Formulary:

- apixaban (brand: Eliquis)
- dabigatran (brand: Pradaxa)
- edoxaban (brand: Lixiana)
- rivaroxaban (brand: Xarelto)

4. Is apixaban 2.5mg still funded? Why are PINs being delisted?

Apixaban 2.5mg (brand and generics) continues to be funded and may be billed under each product’s associated Drug Identification Number (DIN) as listed on the Formulary. To coincide with the July 2024 update to the Formulary and the changes in the designation of DOACs from LU to GB, the ministry is delisting PINs associated with apixaban 2.5mg as they are no longer required.

The following PINs are being delisted as of the July 2024 Formulary update:

PIN	Product
09857463	Eliquis (apixaban) 2.5mg
09858170	Ach-Apixban 2.5 mg
09858180	Apixaban 2.5mg
09858165	Apo-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858239	Auro-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858171	Jamp Apixaban 2.5mg
09858172	M-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858173	Mar-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858249	Mint-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858175	NRA-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858174	Nat-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858176	Sandoz Apixaban 2.5mg
09858177	Taro-Apixaban 2.5mg
09858316	Teva-Apixaban 2.5mg

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 ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282