

# Get help with high prescription drug costs

Get help with high prescription-drug costs – compared to your household income – when you qualify for the Trillium Drug Program.

1. [Qualify for Trillium Drug Program](#)
2. [Search for covered drugs](#)
3. [Include household information](#)
4. [Apply to Trillium Drug Program](#)
5. [What you pay](#)
6. [How to get a 3-month supply](#)
7. [Get Trillium Drug coverage during travel](#)
8. [Get a travel supply of medication](#)
9. [FAQs](#)

---

## Qualify for Trillium Drug Program

The Trillium Drug Program is for people who spend approximately 3 to 4% or more of their after-tax household income on prescription-drug costs.

To qualify for the TDP, you must:

- not already qualify for Ontario Drug Benefit (e.g. you're under 65 years old and not enrolled in a program such as Ontario Works)
- have a valid Ontario health card

---

## Search for covered drugs

Your doctor and pharmacist keep track of all the generic and brand-name drugs covered by the Trillium Drug Program. The Trillium Drug Program covers the same drugs as the Ontario Drug Benefit.

If you want to see the drugs covered by the Trillium Drug Program, you can search at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/check-medication-coverage/>

But it's best to verify the results of your search with your doctor or pharmacist because some of the information is technical.

## Include household information

You have to apply for the Trillium Drug Program **as a household**. That means you must include the following information on your TDP application:

- that you, your spouse, common-law or same-sex partner:
  - have lived together for at least one year
  - are parents together of a child
  - have entered into a co-habitation agreement together under Section 53 of the *Family Law Act*
- children, parents and/or grandparents who live with you and rely on you for financial support
  - if you're financially dependent on them, they must be included on the application
- children who are students, who may not live with you but rely on you for financial support
- spouse or partner who resides in another province or outside Canada
- spouse or partner who resides in a long-term care home

If a person is financially independent from other household members, then the person **does not have to be included** on the TDP application. (A financially independent person is one who does not rely on other household members for financial support and other household members do not rely on them for financial support.)

---

## Apply to Trillium Drug Program

If you're applying for the first time to the TDP, the deadline – in any given year – is September 30. You can get the application form:

- online
  - [Application for the Trillium Drug Program](#)
  - [use this guide](#) to complete each step of the application (e.g. providing proof of income)
- by calling
  - 1-800-575-5386 (toll free)
  - 1-800-387-5559 (TTY)
  - 416-642-3038 (in Toronto area)
- in person at your pharmacy

Completed applications must be sent by **mail only to:**

Trillium Drug Program  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
PO Box 337  
Station D  
Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X3

## Tell your doctor and pharmacist

Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you're planning to apply, have applied or have been approved for coverage through the Trillium Drug Program.

Your doctor can plan ahead to make sure only drugs approved for coverage are prescribed to you. Your pharmacist can check on the lowest-cost generic drug that can work for you – and that is covered by the TDP.

---

## What you pay

When your application is approved, the letter you receive will confirm the amount of the annual deductible you'll need to pay. It will also list all the household members included in the coverage.

A deductible is a set amount towards the cost of your drugs. After you pay that amount, you then pay **up to \$2 for each drug, per person**, that is filled or refilled.

Please note that **as of January 1, 2018**, any of your children who are **24 years old or younger** and [have OHIP coverage](#) are **automatically covered under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program through [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare](#) instead of TDP**. This means, unlike other household members, they **do not have to pay** deductibles or co-payments.

## Calculating the deductible

For most people, the deductible for the Trillium Drug Program equals about 3 to 4% of the household income after taxes.

Your household income is the net income you reported to the Canadian Revenue Agency for the previous tax year – the amount shown on line 236 of your Notice of Assessment.

But the amounts are subtracted from your net income if you:

- receive federal Universal Child Care Benefit (amount shown on line 117 of your tax return)

- withdraw from your Canadian Registered Disability Savings Plan (amount shown on line 125 of your tax return)

Your household income is then reassessed to determine the amount of the deductible.

---

## How to get a 3-month supply

If you receive the ODB, or are in the Ontario Disability Support Program or the Trillium Drug Program, you can request a three-month supply of some drugs used to treat certain chronic conditions, such as:

- diabetes
- high cholesterol
- high blood pressure

Getting a three-month supply of your prescription means you will pay co-payment fees less often.

Talk to your pharmacist to find out which drugs qualify and learn how to request a three-month supply.

---

## Get Trillium Drug coverage during travel

If you're planning to travel in Ontario or outside the province, you may be able to get a larger supply.

Keep in mind that prescriptions filled outside Ontario **are not covered by the TDP**.

### For travel in Ontario

Your pharmacist can transfer your prescription to another pharmacy in Ontario, as long as:

- your prescription has enough refills on it
- you're not refilling it too soon (within 10 days of end of supply)
- your prescription is not for a controlled drug, controlled drug preparation or a narcotic (e.g., Percocet, Dilaudid, Xanax, Valium)

### For travel outside Ontario

You can get a bigger supply, if your doctor has prescribed enough, but you can only do this once between August 1 and July 31 the following year – the TDP program year.

Here's how it works:

- if you have a supply of less than 30 days, you can get a travel supply of **up to 200 days**
    - this can only be done between August 1 and February 1
  - if you have a supply of more than 30 days, you can only get a **100-day supply**
  - if you're enrolled in Ontario Works, you can only get a **35-day supply**
- 

## Get a travel supply of medication

To get your travel supply, give your pharmacist one of the following:

- letter (that you can write yourself) confirming you're leaving the province for up to 200 days
- copy of your travel insurance policy showing you're leaving the province for up to 200 days

You have to pay the co-payment amount for the extra supply.