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March 12, 2019

Dear Prescriber:

Re: Update on the Temporary Facilitated Access Mechanism for Rheumatology (TFA) and changes to OHIP+

The ministry is contacting you as our records indicate that you are an authorized prescriber on the TFA List of Authorized Prescribers maintained by the Ontario Rheumatology Association.

This is to inform you that the TFA Mechanism for Ontario Drug Benefit program recipients aged 24 years and under will be ending on **March 31, 2019** as communicated in the Notice from the Executive Officer dated February 13, 2019.

This coincides with changes to OHIP+. Starting April 1, 2019, the government is focusing OHIP+ benefits on children and youth who do not have a private plan. Children and youth 24 years of age and under who are OHIP-insured, but who do not have a private plan, will continue to receive coverage for eligible prescription medications through OHIP+.

We encourage you to send in Exceptional Access Program (EAP) renewal requests for your patients 24 years of age and under who had been accessing biologics through the TFA who and are expected to remain eligible for the ODB program after March 31st (i.e., those without a private plan). Specific forms for the indications allowed through TFA can be found on the ORA website at: <https://ontariorheum.ca/drug-forms-and-codes/eap-forms>.

Children and youth 24 years of age and under who have a private plan will access prescription medications through their private plan, like they did prior to the launch of OHIP+ on January 1, 2018. Patients 24 years of age and under who accessed biologics through the TFA and who have a private plan may require prior authorization from their private insurer for some medications before coverage is granted. We encourage you to contact your patients 24 years and under to confirm if they are covered by a private plan and facilitate the completion of any necessary documentation prior to April 1st.

Children and youth under other eligibility streams of the Ontario Drug Benefit program (e.g., social assistance, home care, etc.) regardless of insurance status will continue to receive prescription drug benefits through the Ontario Drug Benefit program. Please continue to complete Exceptional Access Program requests for these patients.

Households with high out-of-pocket prescription drug expenses, that include children and youth who are covered under a private plan, can apply to the Trillium Drug Program. The Trillium Drug Program is available to all OHIP-insured Ontarians who have high prescription drug costs compared to their household income. To find out more about the Trillium Drug Program and eligible prescription costs please visit: www.ontario.ca/trilliumdrugprogram or call the Trillium Drug Program at 416-642-3038 (Toronto area) or toll free at 1-800-575-5386.

The Ministry is working with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association to help all affected children and youth transition back to private insurance coverage. We appreciate your assistance in this process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Exceptional Access Program at:

E-mail: EAPFeedback.MOH@ontario.ca
Phone: 416-327-8109 or 1-866-811-9893
Fax: 416-327-7526 or 1-866-811-9908

Sincerely,

David Schachow
Director