

Ontario Public Drug Programs Division
Strategy Execution Branch

Division des programmes publics de médicaments de l'Ontario
Direction de l'exécution de la stratégie

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June 7, 2018

Mary Alberti
CEO
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario
300-95 King St. East
Toronto ON M5C 164

Dear Ms. Alberti:

Re: Schizophrenia Medication

Thank you for your letter dated February 18, 2018, requesting increased support for those suffering from schizophrenia. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) appreciates the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario's (SSO) commitment in supporting those affected by mental illness, including schizophrenia.

As you know, the ministry currently provides coverage for over 4,400 drug products, including drugs to treat mental health conditions such as schizophrenia, to eligible Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) recipients, including children and youth aged 24 years and under who are OHIP-insured.

The decision to fund a drug under the Ontario Public Drug Programs is based on recommendations arising from a series of drug product reviews, including reviews by Health Canada and national and/or provincial expert clinical committees.

We value your feedback and input as the government continues to improve access to medications for children and youth in Ontario. As you may be aware, the ministry has conducted significant stakeholder engagement in the lead up to the expansion of the ODB program to cover children and youth aged 24 years and under. As the Ministry remains open and willing to continue to work with our partners who provide care to children and youth, I would be more than happy to discuss any questions, or if have

specific requests for drug funding consideration, you may forward these requests to my attention. I can be contacted at Joel.Montesanti@ontario.ca.

I trust that you find this information helpful and thank you for writing to me about this important issue

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Montesanti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joel Montesanti
Director, Strategy Execution Branch
Ontario Public Drug Programs