

Emergency Department Access to Prescription Drug Claims History

Attention: *Recipients of Ontario Drug Benefit Program and Trillium Drug Program*

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will be providing most Ontario hospital emergency departments with electronic access to the drug claims history of patients receiving benefits through the Ontario Drug Benefit Program and the Trillium Drug Program.

The Ministry may only disclose your drug claims history to an emergency department where you are seeking treatment. This disclosure will help health care providers deliver more informed emergency care.* It may benefit you by:

- assisting health care providers to quickly identify and prevent harmful drug reactions
- providing missing information if you cannot communicate or remember your medications
- helping to ensure your current medications are continued in hospital if needed
- reducing the need for you to repeat your drug information to multiple providers involved in your care
- reducing the time needed for an emergency medical assessment and allowing for a faster diagnosis and treatment.

If you do not want the Ministry to disclose your drug claims history to an emergency department, you have the right to withdraw consent. You may either:

- fully withdraw consent by notifying the Ministry, or
- partially withdraw consent by informing the Ministry of what drug claims information you do not wish to have disclosed.

Before making a decision to withdraw consent, you are encouraged to consult with a health care provider about potential health risks. *A decision to withdraw consent will have no effect on your eligibility to receive Ontario Drug Benefit Program or Trillium Drug Program benefits or to receive health care services funded by the Province of Ontario.*

If you completely or partially withdraw consent and then later change your mind, you must submit a signed consent form to the Ministry. Consent can also be temporarily reinstated during your visit to an emergency department if you have your health card with you.

For more information or to obtain a consent withdrawal form:

- Phone the Ministry's Drug Programs Branch Help Desk toll-free at 1-866-752-6405 (TTY: 1-800-387-5559).
- Visit the Ministry's web site at www.health.gov.on.ca.

* This disclosure is authorized under O. Reg. 150/05 made under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c.O.10 as well as the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, 2004, S.O. 2004, c.3 Sched. A.