

Information for Health Professionals:

Completing ODSP/OW Special Diet Allowance Application Forms for People Living with HIV

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) recipients with particular health conditions are eligible for the Special Diet Allowance (SDA) of up to \$250.00 per month, in addition to other benefits. The Pregnancy/Breastfeeding Nutritional Diet is in addition to the SDA and requires a separate application form.

The forms can be completed by physicians, nurse practitioners, dietitians, and midwives, including traditional Indigenous midwives. Physicians can bill OHIP for completing the forms, and can invoice the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCSS) for applicants not eligible for OHIP. Other health professionals can submit an invoice to MCSS.

Considerations when completing the SDA application form

- If your patient has experienced either of the two levels of weight loss at any time since becoming HIV-positive, please indicate the appropriate weight loss category on page 3 of the form.
- Please do not circle HIV or indicate the specific weight loss condition(s) (there is no requirement to do so, and for privacy reasons it is important to not do so).
- The form allows you to indicate whether the special diet is required for 6 months, 12 months, or an indefinite period. ODSP has recognized the importance of the SDA for a recipient living with HIV who has experienced weight loss at any time since becoming HIV positive in order to maintain their weight on an ongoing basis. As there is no cure for HIV, please indicate “indefinite” for the length of time the diet is required.
- Please indicate all medical conditions that are relevant for your patient, including diets for other medical conditions.

HALCO provides free legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario. Please refer your patients living with HIV to us for help with ODSP or other legal issues.

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