

Notice from the Executive Officer: Ontario Public Drug Programs Competitive Agreement

July 8, 2008

I am writing to notify you of a new ministry initiative concerning the reimbursement of drug products in the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary/Comparative Index (the Formulary) under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is implementing a Call for Applications (Application) to prospective manufacturers for four drug products listed in the Formulary in the first phase of the initiative (Wave 1).

The Ministry has high expectations for price reductions on the proposed molecules based on international price benchmarks. Obtaining the lowest possible price for these drug products would strengthen the public drug system and enable Ontarians to receive the best value and ensure the most efficient use of resources for these drug products.

Proposed Drug Products for Wave 1

The drug products that have been selected for Wave 1 are the following:

- Enalapril maleate (treatment of high blood pressure)
- Ranitidine hydrochloride (treatment for gastrointestinal problems)
- Metformin hydrochloride (treatment for diabetes)
- Gabapentin (treatment for epilepsy and some pain disorders)

Proposed Timelines

Friday, July 4, 2008 and Monday, July 7, 2008	Briefings completed with pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacies and distributors
Tuesday, July 15, 2008	Follow-up consultation from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm to be held at: Mars Centre 101 College Street, Suite 100, Auditorium Toronto, Ontario M5G 1L7
Friday, July 25, 2008	Issue the Call for Application

Contract start date may begin as early as October 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009 based on the winners' capability of providing sufficient supply. Contract start dates would be determined separately for each molecule. Contracts would end December 31, 2010, and would be eligible for renewal for one further year at the discretion of the Executive Officer.

The Ministry will communicate the results (i.e., the name of the selected manufacturers for each drug product) of the Application to all stakeholders through the Bulletin Board System (BBS) and will also post the results on the Ministry's website.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Briefing for Stakeholder document.

We invite stakeholders' comments regarding the proposed application process for the competitive agreement. While all comments are appreciated and would be considered by me, as Executive Officer, please be advised that I am in no way bound to act on any of the comments or proposals put forward.

Please submit your written comments to:

competitiveagreements@ontario.ca

Helen Stevenson
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Ontario Public Drug Programs