

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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APR 28 2014

Sessional Paper No. P-186

Petition relating to eligibility for blood sugar test strips covered by OHIP (Sessional Paper No. P-186) Mr. McDonell. (Tabled March 03, 2014)

Response:

Effective August 1, 2013 and based on best evidence, the government introduced changes to the number of blood glucose test strips that are reimbursed to people with diabetes. Research has indicated that blood glucose test strips have a limited benefit for many patients who do not take insulin to manage their diabetes.

The government is committed to providing Ontarians with diabetes with the support they need to manage their health. The changes to the reimbursement of blood glucose test strips are aligned with the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) guidelines that encourage proper testing practices for optimal patient outcomes by ensuring that patients test according to their current medication profile.

These evidence-based changes ensure that those who need test strips to manage diabetes will continue to have appropriate access to them while also providing better value for our precious health care dollars. In Ontario, diabetic test strips are frequently among the top five classes of drugs in terms of total expenditures.

Ultimately, patients are encouraged to speak with their doctor or pharmacist to ensure they have the information they need to appropriately manage their condition.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Matthews".

Honourable Deb Matthews