

# Wind-down of the Ontario Hepatitis C Assistance Program

## Questions and Answers

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#### 1. What is the Ontario Hepatitis C Assistance Plan (OHCAP)?

- OHCAP was established in 1998 to provide compassionate compensation to people infected with hepatitis C through the Ontario blood supply:
  - before January 1, 1986; and
  - between July 2, 1990 and September 28, 1998.
- For almost 30 years, the program has provided a one-time compensation payment of \$25,000 to eligible applicants.

#### 2. How is OHCAP Funded, and will there be any remaining funds at program closure?

- To ensure compensation payments, the ministry created an OHCAP liability account to record its commitment to compensate individuals who qualify for the program.
- Since a liability account is a commitment, rather than a fund (where money is set aside for an intended purpose) there will not be funding left over upon program closure to redirect to other priorities such as hepatitis C services or research.

#### 3. Is OHCAP still accepting applications?

- OHCAP will continue to accept applications until the closure date of June 30, 2026.
  - Individuals can continue to submit their applications by no later than 11:59pm ET on June 30, 2026, by email at [OHCAP@Ontario.ca](mailto:OHCAP@Ontario.ca) or by mail to:

Ministry of Health  
Ontario Hepatitis C Assistance Plan  
Box 751  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto ON M7A 9Z9

#### 4. Where can applicants get information and application forms?

- To be considered for compensation, applicants must submit the following documents **by 11:59 p.m. ET on June 30, 2026**:
  - Completed and signed **Applicant** and **Physician** forms
  - A copy of a **positive HCV public health laboratory result**
- Application Forms:
  - Primary/Secondary Applications:
    - [Applicant Form and Instructions](#)
    - [Physician Form and Instructions](#)
  - Estate Applications:
    - [Applicant Form for Estates and Instructions](#)
    - [Physician Form for Estates and Instructions](#)
  - Designated Representative:
    - [Appointment of a Designated Representative](#)
- Applicants can also find information and download application forms on the OHCAP page at [ontario.ca/OHCAP](http://ontario.ca/OHCAP).
- All information collected is kept confidential in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- Applications can be submitted directly:
  - **Fastest:** Email to [OHCAP@Ontario.ca](mailto:OHCAP@Ontario.ca)
  - By mail:  
Ministry of Health  
Ontario Hepatitis C Assistance Plan  
Box 751  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 9Z9

#### 5. Why is OHCAP Winding down?

- The OHCAP program has existed for 30 years. As of January 1, 2025, the OHCAP has provided compensation to a total of 4,494 individuals - \$112.3 million in compensation has been distributed.

- In the last 10 years, there has been a steady decline in annual claimants to the OHCAP.
- After careful analysis, the ministry has decided to wind down a successful, long-standing program that has met its objectives, and reached the intended population to the greatest extent possible.
- The program has fulfilled its purpose, and a transparent closure process reflects the ministry's commitment to efficient use of public resources.

#### **6. Comparison with other jurisdictions?**

- Ontario is one of five provinces that initiated provincial pre-86/post-90 HCV compensation programs (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec).
- Ontario has the longest-running provincial pre-86/post-90 HCV compensation program with the greatest amount of total and individual provincial compensation distributed.
- All other jurisdictions except Ontario and Manitoba closed their programs about 15 years ago, in 2010/11. British Columbia, with the second highest proportion of Canada's HCV cases, closed their program in 2011.

#### **7. What is Ontario doing about HCV?**

- Ontario's Ministry of Health is committed to hepatitis C elimination, reducing hepatitis C transmission, and to improving health outcomes for Ontarians with hepatitis C.
- The ministry provides funding to community-based programs to deliver hepatitis C services and supports, including testing/screening, prevention, treatment, health teaching and outreach.

#### **8. Where do people with hepatitis C get care in Ontario?**

- The ministry funds 24 multidisciplinary hepatitis C care and treatment teams (HCV teams) that provide low-barrier wraparound care to members of priority populations:
  - People who use substances
  - Indigenous Peoples
  - People who are homeless or under-housed
  - People involved in the correctional system and
  - Street-involved youth
- Individuals can also access hepatitis C testing, care and treatment through primary care, hospital and community-based specialists and other health care models, such as Ontario Health Teams.
- Additionally, hepatitis C treatment in Ontario is covered for most people through public insurance plans such as:
  - Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB)
  - Trillium Drug Program (TDP)
  - Ontario Works
  - Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

#### **9. Where can individuals get screened for hepatitis C or get more information about hepatitis C?**

- In Ontario, individuals can access hepatitis C screening/testing, treatment and hepatitis C information through a variety of publicly funded services. Including through:
  - The [Ontario Hepatitis C Teams](#)
  - Primary care providers, including nurse practitioners
  - Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000)
  - [Sexual Health Ontario](#)
  - CATIE: [The Canadian AIDS \(and Hepatitis C\) Treatment Information Exchange](#)