

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)

## **Ontario Disability Support Program Mandatory Special Necessities (MSN) Project Fact Sheet for Health Care Professionals and Legal Clinics**

The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) is a provincial social assistance program that provides income support and benefits for persons with disabilities and their families.

The MSN benefit helps clients with the cost of surgical supplies, items and devices if they have a medical condition required as a direct result of a surgical, radiological or medical procedure or disease, and for eligible travel to medical treatment.

### **MSN Project**

MCCSS is testing a new approach in how it delivers the MSN benefit in two locations (Kingston and Sault Ste. Marie) from April to September 2024. MCCSS will be collecting feedback at the test sites to inform provincial implementation, anticipated in late 2024.

The intent of this project is to reduce burden on health care professionals, introduce a clearer and simpler form, improve access for ODSP clients to health benefits, and integrate the MSN Application form with digital health platforms.

### **What This Means**

For Health Care Professionals and Legal Clinics in Kingston and Sault Ste. Marie

1. Health Care Professionals are asked to complete a new, simpler MSN Application Form that will be provided to them by ODSP clients. The form provides clearer instructions, simpler questions, and examples of the medical supplies covered.
2. Health Care Professionals may complete less forms as ODSP clients will be able to access some basic medical supplies without needing a form completed.
3. Where an MSN form is required, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Registered Nurses, and Physician Assistants are now able to complete and sign the form. This is in addition to Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Psychologists that can currently complete the MSN form.
4. There are no changes to MSN benefit eligibility or benefit coverage at this time.
5. Health care professionals will be paid for completing the form, as per instructions on the form.

### For Health Care Professionals and Legal Clinics Outside of the Two Test Sites

1. It is possible that HCPs outside of the test sites, may encounter both the new and current MSN form. It is acceptable to complete either form.
2. There are no changes to MSN benefit eligibility and processes, benefit coverage, or the health care professionals that are currently authorized to complete and sign the form. Health care professionals will continue to be paid for completion of the form, as per the instructions on the form.

Any questions related to the MSN benefit provided under ODSP should be directed to a local ODSP office for response. To find an office's contact information, please see the <http://www.officelocator.mcass.gov.on.ca/>.