

July 31, 2008

Compliance Packaging
Key Messages

- Ontario pharmacists share the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's commitment to providing the best patient care possible, and to spending health care dollars efficiently.
- The ability to provide the best care for some of our patients will be limited by changes to the regulations governing daily and weekly medication packages for seniors and Ontario Public Drug Program (OPDP) patients.
- As of August 1, the government will only compensate pharmacists up to a maximum of twice a month for medications dispensed in daily and weekly compliance packages for seniors and OPDP patients with complicated regimens, often involving several different medications.
- These changes will have a real impact on some of Ontario's most vulnerable and disadvantaged patients, by making it harder for them to follow their complex medication schedules and threatening their ability to live independently.
- Compliance packaging enables some people to live safely in their own homes by reducing the threat of medication errors and improving adherence rates, which are vital both for patients and for Ontario's health care system.
- We are concerned that reducing access to these packages could result in poorer health for patients, increased emergency room visits and wait times, more hospitalizations and higher health care costs.
- The effective management of complex medication schedules requires an investment in patient-focused, outcome-oriented care to meet the unique needs of each individual.