

—primary immunodeficiency on intravenous (IVIG) or subcutaneous (SCIG) non-specific human immunoglobulin replacement therapy (e.g., common variable immunodeficiency, combined immunodeficiency);

—active treatment for solid tumour or hematological cancer deemed highly immunosuppressive by the treating physician; some targeted biologic therapies are not considered immunosuppressive;

—untreated stage 3 or advanced human immunodeficiency virus infection or persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (CD4 T cells count less than 200);

—an alkylating agent in the treatment of rheumatological disease (e.g., cyclophosphamide);

—treatment with a high dose corticosteroid (i.e., at least 20 mg/day of prednisone, or equivalent) and for at least three weeks;

—any other condition that results in severe immunosuppression as deemed by the treating physician (e.g., certain untreated hematological or thymic neoplasia).

For the purposes of the application of this Schedule, are not considered as severe immunosuppressed and at very high risk of adverse outcomes, persons taking an immunomodulator (e.g., hydroxychloroquine) or a biotherapy directed against a specific inflammatory mediator or its receptor (such as TNF $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, IL-17/23, integrins) as well as a Janus kinase inhibitor used as monotherapy or a corticosteroid therapy considered non-immunosuppressive or an antimetabolite monotherapy such as methotrexate or a combination of immunosuppressants for which the risk of COVID-19 complications is considered not significant (e.g., combination of biotherapies directed against specific inflammatory mediators or their receptors, combination of methotrexate and biotherapy directed against a specific inflammatory mediator or its receptor).

#### **SCHEDULE B – Categories of economically vulnerable persons**

a) any persons exempted from the payment of any contribution required under section 29 of the Act respecting prescription drug insurance (chapter A-29.01);

b) any children within the meaning of paragraph 1 of section 17 of that Act who is required to join a group insurance contract or employee benefit plan that is applicable to a group with private coverage within the meaning of section 15.1 of that Act.”;

10° by replacing “SCHEDULE A” with the following:

#### **“SCHEDULE C – List of self-tests covered by this Program”;**

THAT this Order in Council comes into effect on 15 May 2023, with the exception of subparagraph 8 of the first operative paragraph, which comes into effect on 22 March 2023.

YVES OUELLET  
*Clerk of the Conseil exécutif*

106190

Gouvernement du Québec

#### **O.C. 557-2023, 22 March 2023**

CONCERNING the amendment to the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 and Influenza Pharmaceutical Treatments

WHEREAS, under paragraph *h* of section 3 of the Act respecting the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (chapter M-19.2), the Minister of Health shall in particular promote the development and implementation of programs and services according to the needs of individuals, and families and other groups;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 2 of the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (chapter R-5), the function of the Board (Régie) is to administer and implement the programs of the health insurance plan instituted by the Health Insurance Act (chapter A-29) and any other program entrusted to it by law or by the Government;

WHEREAS, under the fifteenth paragraph of section 3 of the Health Insurance Act, the Board also assumes the cost of services and goods provided under the programs it administers by virtue of the first paragraph of section 2 of the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec according to the conditions and methods provided for under those programs;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 2.1 of the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, the Board is to recover, from the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux or body concerned, the cost of services and goods it assumes under a program entrusted to it by law or by the Government, to the extent provided for under that program;

WHEREAS, under Order in Council 318-2022 dated 16 March 2022, the Government of Québec entrusted the Board with the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments;

WHEREAS this Program was amended on 9 May 2022 by the Agreement #1 concerning the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Board in order to add a new pharmaceutical treatment to the Program;

WHEREAS this Program was also amended on 8 August 2022 by the Agreement #2 concerning the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Board in order to add a new unit format for Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) to treat a person also suffering from kidney failure;

WHEREAS this Program was also amended on 5 December 2022 by the Agreement #3 concerning the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments between the Minister of Health and the Board in order to amend the criteria for use and coverage of Paxlovid™, Evusheld™, and the maximum quantity of unit formats per service of this pharmaceutical treatment for the treatment of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, under Order in Council 1795-2022 dated 7 December 2022, the Government has expanded the scope of this Program to include treatment for influenza;

WHEREAS it is expedient to further amend this Program;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health:

THAT the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 and Influenza Pharmaceutical Treatments, entrusted to the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec by way of Order in Council 318-2022 dated 16 March 2022 and amended by the Agreement #1 concerning the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments and by the Agreement #2 concerning the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Board, by the Agreement #3 concerning the Community Pharmacy Access Program for Certain COVID-19 Pharmaceutical Treatments between the

Minister of Health and the Board, and by the Order in Council 1795-2022 dated 7 December 2022, be further amended:

1° by striking out “and Influenza” after “Certain COVID-19” in the title;

2° by striking out “or Influenza” in section 4;

3° by replacing “2023” with “2024” in section 13;

4° by striking out at the end of Schedule A, the following:

**“C) Oseltamivir**

For the treatment of influenza.”

5° by striking out, at the end of the table of Schedule B, the following:

“

Oseltamivir 75 mg	1 package containing 10 capsules	\$10.39	1
Oseltamivir 45 mg	1 package containing 10 capsules	\$8.07	1
Oseltamivir 30 mg	1 package containing 10 capsules	\$5.24	1

”.

THAT this Order in Council comes into effect on 15 May 2023, with the exception of subparagraph 3 of the first operative paragraph, which comes into effect on 22 March 2023.

YVES OUELLET  
*Clerk of the Conseil exécutif*

106191